MY CRY AND JOYFUL NEW LIFE

(A Soul Stirring Mighty Testimony by a Hindu Convert)

S. Thayappan



இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தில் அன்பின் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

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MY
CRY AND JOYFUL NEW LIFE

(A SOUL STIRRING MIGHTY TESTIMONY)

BY

S.THAYAPPAN

(DONATION - Rs.10)

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book
to all
those Indo-American Christians
in Portland (Oregon, USA)
who laboured
to bring me to Christ and
to strengthen
my faith
and
pray for my
"Good Testimony Ministries"

ABOUT THIS BOOK

1. I have not read such a heart stirring testimony so far. I could not keep the book down – **Mrs. Rani,** Trichy.

2. Virtually I cried many times before completing your book – **Mrs Indirani,** Madurai.

3. I praise God for His abundant Grace in using you as His battle axe and a chosen vessel to glorify His Name - **Mr SJ Job Daniel,** Retd. Asst. Commissioner of Income Tax, Chennai.

4. It was heart warming to read your testimony. It will surely touch many hearts. – **Dr. Mrs. Lillian Stanley,** BlessingYouth Mission, Vellore.

5. Your book has really inspired us a lot and strengthened our faith - **Ms. Sheriba,** Kodambakkam.

6. I pray that this book comes out in all the languages. It is really very good – **Mrs PAC Vais,** Triplicane, Chennai.

7. This book is a challenge to us. Christians and encourages us to draw closer to the Saviour -- **Sis. Ranee Davadas**, Nagercoil.

8. I really cried after reading your testimony on the net. My Jesus never fails. Never! Oh, my faith is really growing after reading the testimony – **Max,** USA.

9. Your testimony is a great blessing to our church believers – **Pastor Sanjiviraj**. Faith Christian Church, Nerkundram.

10. After reading your book, I cried out and prayed to the Lord with renewed faith and He healed my son. The book will be a blessing to many. God bless you – **Mrs Mary Anna,** Kattadurai.

11. Your book is wonderful and increases our faith in Jesus. I praise our precious God for what He has done to you and your family – **Dr M. Immanuel**, Jafferkhanpet.

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me who was an unpardonable sinner and a most ardent idol worshipper for 58 years. The Lord touched me and my entire family through the sickness of my son Karthik who was working as a Software Engineer in the US. Once Jesus' disciples asked Him about a man blind from birth. ***"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind."*** Jesus Christ answered, ***"Neither this man nor his parents. This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life"*** (John 9:3).

Similarly the Lord has chosen our family especially for His glory and to display His work. The psalmist says in Psalm 4:3 that ***the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself.*** Thus the Lord has set us apart for His glory and bestowed upon us innumerable and unimaginable miracles and wonders.

How great are His signs,
How mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an eternal Kingdom:
His dominion endures from
Generation to generation.

The former account of wonders and miracles that the Lord has done in my family is in a Testimony book I wrote in Tamil titled "My Cry and Joyful new life." This book has been translated and published in Kannada and Malayalam. Translation into Hindi, Marathi and Telugu has been completed and will be published very soon. The Lord is touching thousands and thousands of people including non-Christians through these books. Many churches place a bulk order for 500 and 1000 copies of this book for distribution among their congregatiort and others. There is an ever increasing demand for this testimony book in Tamil even after publishing eleven editions and 1,80,000 copies are

already in circulation, not only in Tamil Nadu but all over the world.

Many have suggested that this testimony be brought out in all Indian languages and in English. Now it is my delight to declare in English the same praises to His people scattered all over the globe May all who read these words heed the Word of God.

If King Nebuchadnezzar could tell his subjects about the wonders the Most High God did for him, I could tell HIS subjects more about His wonders as He has done more in my life than He did for King Nebuchadnezzar. Like King David the psalmist, ***I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, Magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His Name together.***

The plan, the purpose and the promise of the King of kings for me is to declare His praises to the millions to prepare them for the Millennium Reign of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, my Saviour Lord JESUS CHRIST. Hallelujah!

May the mighty Lord shower His grace upon every one who reads this book and gives it to others with prayers for them to enjoy the blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Service
of the Lord
S. Thayappan

Chennai
21.02.2010

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JESUS NEVER FAILS

"TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED FOR THE LORD"

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(Regd. No.80 of 1957)



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FOREWORD

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

In accordance with this verse, Bro. Thayappan became a new creation in Christ. But, ironically, it was through trauma and anguish that he found a 'joyful new life'.

He and his family had to battle with a violent storm in their life when his son was afflicted with a terrible disease which was not only a challenge to American surgeons, but shook the very foundation of his faith in Hinduism.

An ardent worshipper of Hindu gods, he was steeped in the observance of all the rituals of his religion until he found the love of Christ through a few Christians who prayed fervently, and with tears for his son's recovery.

The Spirit-filled prayer which those Christians offered to Jesus, their genuine love and compassion for him and his son, and above all, the miracles he received from Jesus each time he prayed to Him changed his hostile attitude to Christians and Christianity. The love of Jesus drew him and his family close to Him, and they are now serving the Lord with great fervour.

The book contains the poignant story of how Bro. Thayappan and his family found the Lord, **"Who would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth"** (I Timothy 2:4).

May the Lord bless this book and use it for His glory.

In the service of the Lord
M.K. Sam Sundaram
Chief Pastor
Apostolic Christian Assembly

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MY CRY AND JOYFUL NEW LIFE

(A Testimony by Bro. S. Thayappan)

IDOL WORSHIP IS THE IDEAL WORSHIP – MY MISCONCEPTION

"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served created things than the Creator, who is forever praised" – Rom. 1:25 (NIV).

Till 58 years of my age, I had been a staunch believer of the Hindu religion. My wife, my two sons, daughter and I were strong and ardent devotees and worshippers of goddess Adhi Parasakthi of Mel Maruvathur and the deity of Thiruchendur. As I was serving in the Indian Air Force mostly in North India, my mother had made a covenant that whenever I visited our native place on leave, I would also visit the temple at Trichendur. Thus I had visited Trichendur more than 25 times. I had gone on pilgrimage to almost all the other famous Murugan Shrines in other places in Tamil Nadu.

I had also gone to other Hindu temples at Kanyakumari, Madurai, Samayapuram, Pillaiyarpatti, Rameswaram, Tirupathi, Varanasi etc. I had been instrumental in the construction of a big Murugan Temple at the Air Force Station, Chandigarh. I had been one of the Executive Committee Members of Lord Ganesh Temple in our neighbourhood, Ganesh Nagar of Chitlapakkam area in Chennai. I had also written, acted, directed and produced a Tamil Drama "Sakthi Oli" (Light of Goddess Sakthi) in a big spiritual conference in Madurai in 1985. I had also performed Hari Katha Kalatchepam more than 100 times depicting the glory of Lord Murugan.

Our entire family members used to wear only red colour dress as a mark and identity of Sakthi cult on all Tuesdays, Fridays, full moon and other auspicious days and do special pujas and annadhanams (free distribution of food to poor people). We have conducted innumerable pujas and rituals like Kalasam (carrying pots), Vilakku (lights) and Vezhvi (sacred fire) in our house and also in temples. I have read many Hindu scriptures like Bhagavat Gita, Ramayana and Mahabaratha and the works of Swami Vivekananda, Ramalinga Swamigal and many others. We were and proud to be staunch Hindus.

Every year all the members of our family used to fast and go to Mel Maruvathur Temple with Irumudi (twin pack containing items for worship and the offerings). We were a god fearing, happy and contented family and used to be respected by all the neighbours for our strong and true religious beliefs and practices.

IS CHRIST SO CHEAP TO BE PUBLICIZED LIKE THIS? MY HATRED TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

"They refused to believe and publicly maligned the way" – Acts 19:9 (NIV)

At the same time I had an aversion toChristianity. I had a very strong feeling that Christianity was a foreign religion and Jesus Christ was a foreign God and was meant only for scheduled castes and tribes i.e. low class people of India. Whenever I saw some Evangelists preaching the Gospel at the bus stand or railway station or in any public place, I used to confront them with questions ,"Who are you to call me a sinner? What sin have I committed? Are you a puritan to call me a sinner? Better hold your tongue and never again call anybody a sinner in public."

When I saw someone giving tracts about Christ, I used to make a big scene there by ridiculing them and by asking, "Is Christ a cheap commodity to sell and publicize like this on the road side? Are there no takers for Christ?" My hatred towards Christianity increased multifold when my own sister's son became a Christian believer and wanted to marry only a Christian girl. It was a great shock my sister and my brother-in-law. My

sister's son studied in Christian schools since my brother-in law was working in the Khadi department (Govt. of Tamil Nadu) in Nanguneri and Valliyur areas in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu.

That area was mostly populated by Christians and almost every school in that area was run by Churches. I had a feeling that the children succumbed to the ceaseless indoctrination of Christianity done subtly, quietly and continuously. The tender minds of these school going kids fell a prey to Christianity when they grew up unchecked! My nephew, after completing his school final, joined a Poly technic Institute in Coimbatore and stayed in its hostel for three years. He then secured a job there itself and continued to stay alone in Coimbatore. He took baptism and became a born-again Christian. My sister and her husband did not know about this.

The problem came up only when arrangements were made for his marriage. He was adamant in saying that he would marry only a Christian. My sister and her husband tried to put some sense into their son stating that an inter-religious marriage would only be a disaster and would lead to many problems in the post marital life, in our culture and among our relatives. But he was stubborn in his stand. Finally they approached me to advise him as he had a lot of respect and regard for me and my elder brother.

I tried my best to advise and convince him that his stand in marrying a Christian girl was nothing but stupidity which he would regret in his later days. I asked him if he loved any Christian girl. He said "No". I told him that I might even agree to the marriage if he had a love affair with a Christian girl. I tried to convince him that his liking for the Bible, Christ and Christianity had been injected into his blood from childhood in the schools and he had accepted it even without fully knowing well about his own religion, Hinduism. I told him that Hindu religion was the best religion in the world and that alone could lead us to Mukthi (salvation) and to Heaven.

I even threatened him that I might break his leg ano make him permanently handicapped if he were to go against all our wishes. But he was resolute. No amount of my coaxing, threatening,

reasoning and convincing had any effect on him and he finally married a Christian girl whose brother was a pastor. That further added fuel to my hatred and aversion to Christianity. I passed strict orders in the textile spinning mill where I was working as Personnel Manager, not to give any job to any Christian and I made sure that it was strictly followed in letter and spirit.

On the repeated and persistent request of my sister, I gave my nephew a job in our Spinning Mill itself. He worked there for nearly five years. My nephew was staying with his family only a mile away from the place of my work. He had begotten two daughters also after coming here. But I never went to his house or touched his children despite my sister, brother-in-law, my own elder brother and many of our relatives had later got reconciled to his conversion to Christianity.

SHORTLIVED BLESSINGS FROM THE GODS I HAD WORSHIPPED

"A horse is a vain hope for deliverance, despite all its great strength it cannot save" - Ps. 33:17 (NIV).

I have three children. I was so much religious minded that I named all my children after the Hindu gods' names I had believed in. I named my elder son after Thirichendur Murugan as Karthikeyan, my daughter as Gayathri depicting 'OM' Pranava Manthra, the so called highest Manthra among all the Manthras and my younger son as 'Sakthi' after Melmaruvathur Adhi Parasakthi. Our son Karthik was selected for a job in Singapore as a Software Engineer on a monthly salary of Rs. 1.25 Lakhs. We were extremely delighted and felt as though we had been blessed by Goddess Adhi Parasakthi and Lord Murugan.

All of us were filled with inexplicable joy when he was selected for a job in the US after a year and boarded the flight for Atlanta on 24th June 2000. He was offered a salary of Rs.2.50 lakhs per month. We felt that all our prayers, good deeds, fear of god and faith were bringing a blessing to us and we thanked all the gods whom we had been worshipping.

OUR DREAMS SHATTERED - SERIOUS CONDITION OF MY SON

"This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace" – Is. 37:3 (NIV)

Our joy and dreams did not last even three months. All our dreams were shattered when I received a phone call at midnight on 13th September 2000 from St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, Oregon State, US. A doctor asked for my consent to do a major head surgery on my son to save his life. He said that he was in the intensive care unit, in a serious condition with his brain affected by Miliary TB resulting in Hydrocephalus. He further said that some of his brain faculties were already affected, he was falling into a coma and that his left side was paralyzed. "If the surgery is not done immediately, he may not survive", the doctor said.

I was terribly shocked and could not believe my ears. I told the doctor, "What are you saying? Are you talking about my son Karthik? No, it can never be so for my son. I think you have dialled a wrong number." I was about to hang up feeling pity for the parents to whom this call was intended. But the doctor on the long distance call hurried up to say, "Don't hang up. Please wait. Are you not Mr. Thayappan?" I said "Yes, I am." Then he said "I am talking about only your son Karthik who is working as a Software Engineer in Intel." It was a thunderbolt which shattered me.

FATE AND KARMA OF MY SON – SPECIAL PUJAS TO APPEASE THE GODS

"...We have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place" – Is. 28:15 (NIV)

My entire family could not bear the shock on hearing this news and were deeply affected by it. It was beyond anybody's control to pacify my wife. She could not take it at all. She was all tears and was crying all the time without taking any food. A young and healthy man of 28 years going to the US laughing and jumping in June and within three months – we cannot even think of him to be in the ICU, requiring a major head surgery to save his life. Why...Why? How could it happen to him? Why has it happened to my son? What sin have I committed for this to befall my son? I could not bear it.

Is it the envy of some of our neighbours? Or is it their eye-casting? Or is it some witchcraft done by someone? Oh God, please answer my prayers, I cried. What wrong have I done to earn this for my son? What can be the cause of this fateful blow on my son? I cried and prayed. With no answer to any of my questions, I took the horoscope of my son and went to many astrologers, fortune tellers, palmists and to Vaitheeswaran temple to have a look at my son's palm leaf horoscope. Wherever I went I was told that my son's birth stars and planets were not in favourable positions, his time was bad, it was in his fate and karma etc.

Every one was able to tell correctly whatever had happened in my son's life so far. When it came to his present condition, they were hesitant to tell me the fact, a few swallowed the words, one or two indirectly pointed out the end of my son's life. I looked deep into his horoscope through many astrologers, but none of them could give me an encouraging word regarding my son's future or life. They said that even Almighty God cannot and will not change the Prarartha karma, Sanjitha karma and the Ahamya karma (Wills of God). One has to undergo the sufferings of these karmas.

To reduce its adverse effect and to please and appease the planets and birth stars, some one suggested to do special pujas with milk abhishegam (ordination of the deity with milk) for Lord Siva Linga for 40 days, some one else advised to do Ganapathy Homam, another one a Navagraha Puja (Prayers for nine planets) and a Homam (holy fire), yet another – a vada mala (garland of hot doughnuts) for Lord Anjaneya (the monkey disciple of Lord Rama) and a hundred other suggestions like this.

My wife rushed with tears to do everything suggested to us with the hope that the god and planets might be pleased with at least some of our worship, pujas and offerings and that our son might come out of this trauma unscathed and totally healed. It was the tearful feeling and hope of a mother who had carried him in her womb for ten months to see him healed.

IS GOD DEAD OR ALIVE? - BROKE ALL THE GLASS FRAMED IMAGES OF IMPOTENT GODS

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." – Jonah 2:8.

In the meanwhile, I tried to collect the information about the exact condition of my son through some of my friends in the US and through the Consultant who had employed my son. All the information I received from them only increased my worries and anxieties. The Consultant asked me to take a flight immediately to Portland to be with my son. He agreed to fax me a medical certificate from the hospital to enable me to obtain a visa on a priority basis from the US Consulate General in Chennai. While I was trying to get the visa and book a flight to Portland, I received another phone call from the hospital stating that due to some block, the shunt (tube) which was placed in the ventricle of my son's brain to drain the excess fluid, was not working and hence they needed to do another surgery to replace the shunt. I was really torn to pieces.

The agony and pain of my wife was unbearable. Why haven't all the gods whom I had worshipped for the last 58 years helped my son? Couldn't these gods have averted my son's sickness? Is fate and karma so powerful that even gods could do nothing about it? Or haven't these Gods any power to change our fate or karma? Are they merely stones and metals? Is it my foolishness to have believed until now in all these so called gods and to have thought of them as omnipotent, all powerful and capable? A person can fall sick. It can be a fever or typhoid or even malaria or Jaundice. But if one's brain was affected leading to a coma and paralysis, isn't it the duty of these gods whom I had been worshipping so far to save my son from such deadly and fatal diseases?

Are all the pujas, offerings, archanai (prayer chanting mantras), abhishekams, homams, fastings and chanting of manthras I have done to these gods only a waste? Do they have no meaning at all? Simply I could not comprehend. Is there a God at all in this world? Does He exist or not? Or was I just worshipping a false and non-existing god so far? If there is a God, is He alive or dead? Has He got a heart, feeling and love for His creations? Does He not have

eyes and ears to see and listen to our cries and the sufferings of His people? If everything was to happen according to karma and fate, why should I worship these powerless and impotent gods? In my anger and anguish, I broke all the pictures of these so called gods which we had been worshipping all these years in my house.

LET NO ONE SUFFER LIKE ME AND MY SON – BACK TO IDOLATRY

"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods" – Gal. 4:8 (NIV).

I hurried from India to the US on 27th September 2000 to see my ailing son, and to be with him at the time of his distress. When I saw my son on 29th midnight in the ICU of St. Vincent Hospital, Portland, I was really torn to pieces. I pray that no father or mother should ever see his or her son in such a pathetic, horrible and pitiable condition. He blinked lifelessly, his left side totally paralyzed, not able to speak, memory totally lost, very lean and thin, half of his hair in the head shaved off to do the surgery and a bandage in the head with a tube coming through the head draining the fluid out of the brain and countless tubes fitted every where in his body and his life line being monitored round the clock by a computer. He was practically sinking. He was in the last leg of his life.

The doctors were not able to give any hope to me for his survival. They simply said – Pray to God. When I saw my son's hopeless and precarious condition, I had no other go but to fall again at the feet of those idol gods and pray to them again to forgive my foolishness in breaking their pictures in anger and request them to save my son at any cost. With tears rolling down my cheeks, I used to chant many manthras seeking mercy from all the gods from morning to evening. I used to chant Kandha sasti kavasam, 108, 1008 Om Sakthi manthras, then Sivaaya Manthra and then Miruthunjeya Manthra i.e. life saving manthra, then Vazhga Vazhamudan mantra by Vedathri Maharishi. Day after day, week after week, I was chanting these manthras and praying to all the Hindu gods I knew with tears and a broken heart.

There used to be Satya Sai Baba bhajan on every Thursday, in one of the South Indians' house in Portland and I used to attend

that bhajan regularly seeking Baba's healing touch on my son. There they gave me the sacred ash brought out through a miracle by Sathya Sai Baba and the sacred water blessed by Baba. I applied that sacred ash on the forehead of my son and poured a few drops of the holy water into the mouth of my son thinking that it would heal him completely. I pasted the photo of Baba in the ICU believing that it would ward off the demon of sickness from my son.

Sai Baba's disciples told me that if I read the life history of Shirdy Sai Baba (the previous avatar of Satya Sai Baba) within a week with a prayer request, it would be blessed by Baba. I read it with tears and prayers in four days' time to save the life of my son. But nothing happened. All the manthras I was chanting, all the gods whom I was worshipping and all the prayers I was offering with my whole heart, soul and tears did not heal my son. Instead, his condition was going from bad to worse. He was practically sinking, dying and his pulse was going down.

BETTER DO MERCY KILLING - OTHERWISE HE WILL BE A BURDEN TO YOU AND TO HIMSELF FOR EVER

"...no one knows who the Father is except the son and those to whom the son chooses to reveal Him" – Luke 10:22 (NIV)

My son's condition was a challenge even to those American doctors who were supposed to be the best and experts in advanced medical science in the world. St Vincent Hospital in Portland was adjudged one among the best hundred hospitals in America for the last seven years consecutively. Finally, the doctors told me that they had done their best and that nothing further could be done by them. Even if my son survived, he would remain a burden to himself, to us and he could never lead a normal life or take up a job. To avoid all these, the best thing would be to do 'mercy killing' they said.

It is permissible under US law. The end will not be painful. Once the life supporting apparatuses are removed, his end will come even without his knowledge and it will be as if he is still sleeping, they said and recommended mercy killing to my son, without any mercy in their heart. They gave me a booklet to read on the subject

and to take my time to take a decision in the matter. I was shocked and really shattered. I told those doctors in an even tone, "Never again open this topic to me. You are not suggesting mercy killing but you are killing mercy. We Indians have the mind and duty to take care of our sons in any critical condition."

But I did not know what to do further except to cry. As King David said in Ps. 18:4, ***the cords of death had entangled my son; the torrents of destruction had overwhelmed me. The cords of grave have coiled around Karthik, the snares of death confronted him. In my distress, I called the Lord; I cried to God for help.*** I cried aloud – Is there TRUE GOD in this world who could hear my prayers and change the fate and karma of my son? The **TRUE GOD** Jesus Christ heard my prayers! My cry must have come before Him and fallen into His ears, for I heard the answer from the Lord the very next day.

THE 'TRUE GOD' HEARD MY PRAYERS

"This poor man called and the Lord heard him" – Ps. 34:6

The next day on 2nd November 2000 when I was sitting in the ICU reception greatly depressed and dejected, a person passed by me. Then he stared at me and came over to me and said, "Excuse me, are you from India?" I said, "Yes." He then asked me, "Which part?" I replied, "Madras." In a friendly and pleasing way, he shook my hand and said, "I am Pastor Jacob George from Kerala. I am a pastor in one of the Indian Churches here." He then enquired what brought me there. I told him everything. He felt sorry and said a few soothing words and then asked me if he could see my son.

I took him to the ICU where my son was lying in a coma. The pastor's eyes were moist when he saw my son's condition. When he came back to the reception, he took my hand, patted it comfortingly and then asked if he could pray for my son. I was taken aback with surprise. I then said with tears in my eyes, "Please pray for my son. I need all the prayers for my son." He prayed. He prayed with tears and with all his heart. He prayed with agony, real concern and love. It was a strong, effective and heart touching

prayer. He really wept in his prayers, unmindful of the surrounding and the passers by. I had never heard such a soul stirring and touching prayer in my whole life.

I was sobbing uncontrollably. It would be natural and allright if I cried as a father for my son's condition. But an unknown person who had met me only about five minutes ago, was praying for my son with tears! I had never experienced such a prayer and it was something quite strange to me. None of my Hindu friends or close relatives had ever cried or prayed for my son like this. Even in prayers, we, Hindus are selfish. We pray only for ourselves, for our family and children and NEVER for any neighbours or unknown patients or for those people who fought with us, talked ill us, scolded us, abused us or cheated us.

One needs to have a good, divine and loving heart to pray for others especially unknown people and enemies. I came to know later that ONLY TRUE CHRISTIANS HAVE SUCH A TYPE OF GREAT, TENDER AND HOLY LOVING HEART TO PRAY FOR OTHERS! They take the burden and sufferings of others and pray for them and also share the goodness and happiness they enjoy with others. They only have the heart to forgive others' mistakes. Then the pastor asked me if he could bring some more people who were prayer warriors and who would only be too willing to pray for my son. I said, "Please bring them". Within an hour he brought about 10 people and they all prayed for my son with tears in the ICU reception lobby.

FAITHFUL PRAYERS OF BELIEVERS RAISED MY SON FROM THE COMA!

"...if we know that He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him" – I John 5:15 (NIV).

It was the third day on 5th November 2000. Pastor Jacob George took me to his Church. It was a small congregation of about 20 to 25 families, all Keralites and Pentecostalists. The Pastor explained the serious condition of my son and asked every one there to pray for my son. They all joined together, stood around me, laid their hands on me and prayed whole heartedly with one accord. They literally shed tears for my son and cried to the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing and deliverance of my son.

They all prayed together with one mind saying, "Father, please have mercy on Karthik and his father. Shower Your blessings on them. Let Your power of resurrection come down on Karthik and raise him from the coma. May Your injured hands touch him and heal him completely. We claim complete deliverance and healing for Karthik in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Father, we read in James 5:15 that ***the prayers offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him.*** We claim it for Karthik in full faith in Jesus precious name, Master. Amen".

Almighty God who promised His presence, in the midst of two or three gathered in His name - Mt. 18:20, heard their tearful prayers made in one accord. The Lord who has said that ***He will never forsake you- Josh. 1:5 and ask anything in His name, you shall get it,*** listened to their earnest, faithful prayers. The loving, merciful, miracle working God – Lord Jesus Christ broke and removed the cords of death around my son, unwound the cords of death coiled around my son and BLESSED MY SON TO COME OUT OF THE COMA!

When we reached the hospital from the church, we found him seated in a wheel chair, fully conscious and with all his senses revived for the first time in three months. He nodded his head on recognizing me. It was a great and pleasant shock for us. Even the doctors and the nurses in the ICU wondered how this miracle had happened and said that his recovery from the coma was quite unbelievable. I could neither believe nor disbelieve my own eyes.

I could not but think like this – the so called Hindu gods whom I had been worshipping whole heartedly and devotedly for the past 58 years had failed to help my son. On the contrary, the Lord whom I had despised and hated has saved my son from the valley of death. Tears rolled down my cheeks on seeing my son's recovery from the coma when I had totally lost all my hopes. But Jesus Christ who created this entire universe and all the living beings in it with one word, changed, altered and nullified the horoscope of my son which predicted the end of my son's life. Praise the Lord!

DOES ANY CHURCH GIVE MONEY FOR THE CONVERSION OF HINDUS TO CHRISTIANITY?

"when the kindness of God and the love of God appeared" – Titus 3:4

Then every day Pastor Jacob George or Brother Sam Verghese with Mathai uncle or George Joy and many others from his church came, prayed and talked about the Bible or Jesus Christ and His unceasing love to me. They said, ***"If you believe Jesus, you have a good life in Him"- Rom. 1:17.*** I needed their prayers for my son but NOT Jesus. When they started talking more about the Bible and Jesus, I became a little alert and cautious. I thought those people were trying to convert me to Christianity taking advantage of my helpless condition.

So I started arguing with them saying that whatever they were telling me, was there already in Bhagavat Gita or Ramayana or Mahabharatha or in the teachings of Vivekananda and in many other Hindu Vedas and Upanishads. But they never argued back nor did they talk anything ill of the Hindu gods or Hinduism or its rituals, culture or traditions. They talked only about the abundant love of Jesus, how He had died and shed the last drop of His precious blood on the cross for all our sins and sicknesses and what He had promised us.

And whosoever came and talked to me had a miracle in their lives to narrate and they were a living example and witness for the blessings, mercy and healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then I asked myself – what are these people going to get by converting me into a Christian? Is their church going to give them one lakh or two lakh rupees for converting a Hindu into a Christian? No, nothing! Neither monetary benefit nor reward nor any recognition do they get.

In day to day life we recommend so many worldly things to others – go to that particular tailor, he stitches well or go to that automobile mechanic, he is good at the job. Like that we recommend so many worldly things to others without expecting anything from them. Similarly, it may be the way they show their gratitude and love to

the Lord for the blessings, healing, miracles and the eternal joy they have received from Jesus Christ. So, I THOUGHT WHY NOT I ALSO PRAY TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

JESUS IN ME MOVED FROM THE LAST PLACE TO THE FIRST

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." – 2 Pet. 3:18.

Hindu philosophy teaches that all the gods are the same and only the names are different. "Eshwar, Allah, therey naam, sabko jannath dhey Bhagawan!" Rivers may be different but finally all the rivers converge only in the ocean i.e. Bhagavan, Supreme, Almighty God. Further, as it is, we, Hindus are not worshipping one God. We pray to a number of gods like Shiva, his wife Parvathi or Om Sakthi, their son Ganesh, his brother Murugan with his two wives(!), Lord Venkatachalapathy, his wife Lakshmi, his sister Saraswathi, Hanuman etc. apart from several self proclaimed godmen like Saibaba, Sankaracharya, Bhangaru Adigal and so on.

So I admitted Jesus Christ into the crowd of gods and started worshipping Him also. I used to chant all the manthras for the Hindu gods first and in the end prayed to the Lord Jesus. Within a month, without my knowledge, Jesus had moved from the LAST POSITION TO THE FIRST PLACE and I became aware that I was praying only to Jesus afterwards. WHEN I STARTED WORSHIPPING ONLY JESUS, MIRACLES AND WONDERS STARTED HAPPENING IN MY SON'S CONDITION. I could see life and a sense of recognition in his eyes and a steady progress in his general condition.

Within a fortnight he was transferred from the ICU to the general ward and then to a Rehabilitation Centre. More than Rs. 3.5 Crores had been spent on my son's medical treatment. As my son's medical expenses were covered by Insurance, I was spared. Otherwise, it was beyond my imagination. I don't even know how many zeros are there in 3.5 Crores. I am just a middle class person. The strange thing was that my son had worked only for 25 days in the US, not even one full month. I could only thank

the Lord Jesus Christ for His divine intervention in our lives and for His remarkable, wonderful guidance. Hallelujah!

TASTING TRUE CHRISTIAN LOVE

"Taste and see that the Lord is good" – Ps. 34:8 (NIV)

In the Rehabilitation centre, on one of the days in December 2000, the nurse removed my son's urine catheter which was fitted to my son about four months before. He had no urine or motion control. Medically they term it as 'double incontinence'. So he was wearing an adult diaper. I took him for physiotherapy and then put him to bed for a nap in the afternoon after lunch, I used to check up his diaper to change it if it was wet. Surprisingly it was totally dry. It was something very strange for me. In that winter, any person would normally feel the need for urinating every hour. My son had not urinated since morning in that chill climate.

I thought of waiting till the evening to check him up again. I checked up again at 4 pm. His diaper was still dry. But he was restless and perhaps was feeling the urge and uneasiness but could not express it. I called the nurse and she said that my son could have developed some infection in the urinary track or a blockage in the passage. It was a serious matter and she wanted to call the doctor immediately. I asked her to wait. "Before you call your doctor, let me call my Doctor!"

Immediately I rang up my Christian friends and told them. They said "Don't worry, just lay your hand on his body and pray in the name of Jesus. ***"Your faith will heal him"- Mk. 5:34. Cast all your care upon Jesus for He cares for you"- 1 Pet. 5:7.*** We are also on our knees praying for him": I did as they advised and prayed in full faith. THE NEXT MINUTE THE MIRACLE HAPPENED! My son urinated immediately without any problem. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. Many times Karthi's condition grew worse and it was totally unpredictable. His head would collapse without any known reason and our faithful prayers would bring him back to normal. ***"Call upon Me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me"- Ps. 50:15.*** How true and sincere is Jesus Christ to His promise!

ULTIMATUM GIVEN BY ME TO JESUS CHRIST
"My times are in your hands" – Ps. 31:15 (NIV)

I told Pastor Jacob George that if Jesus Christ healed my son completely within a month by Jan. 15, 2001, I would accept Him as my personal Saviour. He agreed but told me to stop worshipping all idols and have complete faith in Jesus and to worship Him alone. ***"Without faith it is impossible to please God"- Heb. 11:6,*** he said. From that day onwards, I stopped idolatry and chanting of all mantras and started praying only to Jesus.

I prayed sincerely with all my heart and soul. I prayed all the time. I prayed for every thing. I prayed before and after doing anything. Prayer was in my mind all the 24 hours. I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in me. Many miracles happened in my day to day life proving to me ***"I am with you always even to the very end of the age"- Mt. 28:20*** and God's grace was with me all the time.

Every Saturday I used to call my family. The call, normally, would not materialize for a long time and it really used to test my patience. But as soon as I prayed and begged the Lord for the connection, I would get it immediately. This happened not once but many times.

One day I had misplaced the telephone prepaid card somewhere. I searched for it for more than 30 minutes but to no avail. I got it immediately as soon as I prayed to the Lord. Once I could not open the lid of my cooker. Somehow it had got struck and I struggled for nearly 15 minutes to open it. Finally when I looked up to the Lord for help, it opened. Normally Americans don't stop the car on the high way to give a lift to any strangers. Many a time, whenever I was stranded in the hospital or in any Max station because of rain or inclement weather, I would just pray to Jesus and I would get a lift in some car to reach my apartment.

Like this, THE LORD ANSWERED ALL MY PRAYERS AND MET MY DAY TO DAY NEEDS AND PROVED THAT HE NEVER FORSAKES HIS CHILDREN. ***"Peace I leave with you, My peac[e] I give to you, not as the world gives do I give you. Let not you[r]***

heart be troubled neither let it be afraid"- John 14: 27. True to His Words, more than anything else, the Lord gave me peace and unwavering confidence which I had totally lost without HIM.

At the same time, I asked myself who I was to give an ultimatum to the Lord to heal my son in a month's time. He is Almighty God who created the whole universe with millions of stars and planets. The Lord has said, ***"It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it"- Is. 45:12.*** He is the Creator of all living beings on land, air and the sea.

Recently I saw a news item on the TV that a satellite which was sent by NASA Scientists from the US had travelled continuously for seven years and reached Saturn. When I tried to imagine the distance from Earth to Saturn, my head began to spin. I saw another news item on the TV on Sep 01, 2004 that the American scientists had discovered two more new planets like Earth at a distance of 35 light years in the solar system. What has been discovered so far out of the creations of the Lord by scientists is only very little and what is yet to be discovered is unimaginable.

Whenever there is a discovery of a new star in the galaxy or a planet in the cosmic universe, we are awe struck by the creation of the Lord. All these things which are beyond our thinking and understanding were created by the Lord with ONE WORD and He hung them in the vacuum like flowers on a tree. What a fool I had been to give a time and date to such an omnipotent Lord and Creator to heal my son! He knows what is best for me and for my son. HE DOES EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL IN HIS RIGHT TIME AND WAY (Ecl. 3:11). The psalmist says in Ps. 55:22, ***"Cast your burden on the Lord and He shall sustain you. He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."*** That sense and realization dawned on me. I asked the Lord to forgive my foolishness and I totally surrendered at His feet.

I REMEMBER THEM WITH TEARS FOR BRINGING ME TO CHRIST

"Those who oppose him he must gently instruct..."2 Tim. 2:25(NIV).

Satan tried his level best to destroy my newly found faith. When I

was in the US to take care of my son, I used to go to the hospital every day by 9 am and be with him till about 7 pm. I was seeing my son all the time, his helpless condition, ups and downs in his condition, sometimes his body temperature would rise to 106 to 108 degrees. The nurse would make frantic calls to the doctors. They would come and shoot out some orders. All of a sudden they would take my son on a stretcher with oxygen cylinders and ventilator for a scan or MRI.

When I asked them what was wrong, they would say, "We are trying to find out. Don't worry. Everything will be allright." But their face would show that something was wrong. How can I remain without worrying? All sorts of unwanted imaginations used to creep in and I used to be spiritually down. At such times Pastor Jacob George, Brother Verghese Pulikottil, Mathai uncle, his wife, George Joy and his wife Sudha used to comfort me with their prayers and soothing words of the God. (George is not alive now. He had left to be with God. He was a fine gentleman and I loved him so much that I went all the way to Kerala just to see him when he came here for some ayurvedic treatment. His son Benny has now joined a Bible college to become a servant of God).

I can never forget Brother Paul, EV Verghese, Johnson and his wife and so many others who used to comfort me, encourage and invite me to lunch or dinner in their homes. They used to pray continuously for me and Karthi. They strengthened my faith and laid a strong foundation in Christ. Luke 22:32 says ***"When you have returned to me, strengthen your brethren."*** Yes, by their sustained fellowship, visit, love and moral support, apart from upholding me in all their prayers, they strengthened me in Christ.

I recall the innumerable occasions I had insulted, neglected, ignored, irritated and avoided them and argued with them just for the sake of argument. I still remember the days when I used to go for a walk on seeing them in order to avoid them. But they ignored all my irritant behavior and went on firmly to bring me to Christ by preaching the Word as Apostle Paul has exhorted in 2 Tim

4:2, ***"in season and out of season."*** They loved me and my son so much that they were ready to do anything for us expecting nothing from us.

They reflected the true love of Jesus Christ. It was their sincere, true, selfless Christian love that finally broke the barrier and won me over to Christ. I was able to see Jesus in them. I could feel the divine love of Jesus through them. They were really true Christians. I was a hard nut to crack and a very strong religious minded Hindu. I had studied Hindu Vedas and Scriptures and I was very deeply engrossed in them. Further, I had hated Christianity and was dead against it. I was an educated, experienced and mature person. I cannot be easily carried away or influenced to be converted on account of my son's sickness alone. It was their sincere prayer, love, real Christian life and the fellowship that turned my mind and soul to Jesus Christ. It is because of them that we are now able to enjoy such a blessed life with so much of peace, happiness, love and the fellowship of so many people that we have not enjoyed in our entire life.

HOW COULD THE ONCE HATED CHRISTIANITY BECOME THE MUCH LOVED FAITH?

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" – Phi. 2:13 (NIV)

One day I was recapitulating how my hatred towards Christianity and Jesus Christ since childhood had disappeared and the love for Christ and His Way had bloomed in me. What exactly had transpired or attracted me to Christianity? Which one truly prompted me to interchange my hatred for love? I sank deep into the bottom of my mind in introspection and analyzed to find out the answer. It is true that I was greatly disappointed and annoyed with all the (so called) Hindu gods for allowing such a deadly disease to come upon my son and for not saving him from the coma and paralysis. But that disappointment and annoyance alone could not have been the cause for changing my hatred towards Christianity to a love for it.

Hindu religion, its culture, traditions, beliefs and rituals were of very great value to me and they were very deeply assimilated into my blood stream. My liking and leaning towards Hinduism was not born out of my having been born into a Hindu family with a staunch Hindu background. I had in fact loved Hindu religion and admired it. I was rather proud to be a Hindu. I used to sing devotional songs on the deities of Murugan and Adhi Parasakthi and other Hindu gods/goddesses. I sang from the bottom of my heart with tears rolling down my cheeks and with true devotion and dedication. I had even done a devotional concert to raise funds to conduct the wedding of the daughter of a temple priest in Delhi.

I had also practised transcendental meditation and kundalini yoga. After reading many Hindu Vedas, Upanishads and religious books, I thought I was fully convinced that Hindu religion was a meaningful religion and the only religion which could offer you Mukthi or moksha (eternal life in heaven). How could a man with such a background and knowledge about Hinduism ever change his opinion and concept about Christianity and Christ?

I am not boasting. It is not that easy to convince me of anything as I have a probing mind and will not believe anything on the face of it. I always ask what, why and how to believe anything. I am a counter-intelligence trained person in the Indian Air Force and the first lesson taught to us was not to believe anything unless it was thoroughly analysed and evidenced. Nothing escapes my sight and observation. My assessment of many issues does not go wrong.

38 years of my versatile career in HRD, administration, personnel management, security, intelligence, counter-intelligence, insurance, marketing, art and cultural fields had groomed me well in individual and mass psychology. All these experiences and exposures had sharpened my mental alertness, focus, thinking and analytical powers. With all these qualities I had acquired, I tried to analyse deeply with an open unbiased mind, the lives of all those Indo-American Christians who preached the gospel to me.

THE INVALUABLE PEARLS I COULD DIG OUT OF CHRISTIANITY

"When he found one of great value…he bought it" – Mt. 13:46 (NIV)

No wonder that the Bible excels all the other Holy books in the world and stays alive and appealing even after millenniums. I am a bookish fellow. I have read innumerable books in Tamil as well as in English. But I have not read a book like the Holy Bible. The Bible alone tells us how the whole universe, the vast sky, the ocean, all the living beings that fly, crawl, walk and swim and how human beings were created by God, how pure and holy is the Lord God, how God wants us to live without sin and unholy things, how one should live and one should not live, what is righteousness, what are the reasons for our sufferings and failures.

The Holy Bible tells us about life after our death, what happens to our soul and spirit, about the judgement for whatever we have done and our eternal life either in hell or heaven according to our deeds. The person who reads the Bible daily and follows the commandments meticulously in life will enjoy all the blessings, protection, mercy and grace of the Lord in this earthly life as well as eternally. Christianity alone can transform individuals and bless us as a society totally free from terrorism, atrocities, vandalism, hatred, selfishness and suppressions in the name of caste, creed and religion and to live as children of one mother.

The Bible alone can give a person self confidence, hope and faith even in the worst possible situation. Christianity has done a yeoman service to individuals as well as society. It inculcates a feeling of universal brotherliness irrespective of all their differences in culture, tradition and style of living. As King David has said in Ps. 119:11, *"Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you".* Scripture warns, saves, rescues people from sin and gives them enough courage, mental power and strength to overcome worldly temptations and instills a godly fear into their mind to shun sins. It guides them to lead a holy, holistic, healthiest, happiest, contented, peaceful and meaningful life.

If one follows the teachings of the New Testament, one is sure to experience the richness and unimaginable comforts and peace of heaven in this earthly life itself. CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A RELIGION AT ALL. IT SHOWS US THE WAY TO HAVE A CLOSE, ETERNAL AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CREATOR. It is not one of the ways to the Creator but the ONLY WAY.

The patience and humility shown by Christians, their character/ culture of thanking the Lord for everything, even for a small thing in their lives, thinking and remembering the Creator at every step and stage of their lives, an admirable attitude to forgive and forget the blunders and mistakes of others, giving the top most place and priority in their lives for the Lord, enduring all the sufferings with a smile and a firm belief that all the ordeals in their lives were permitted by the Lord only to mould them, really astonished me.

The practice of all the family members joining together daily at a particular time for a family prayer really helped in resolving many family disputes and built up a harmonious, wonderful, close knitted relationship amongst the family members when the joint family system and a good family institution is disintegrating these days. Whatever the impediments, they attended church as a family on all Sundays and enjoyed the bliss, the anointing and the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout their stay in the church and in the worship without allowing their mind to wander elsewhere. The Word of God shared in the church by the pastor for about 45 minutes really mends and moulds our lives, thoughts, character and attitudes and help us to lead a holy life.

I was moved when special prayers were made for the sick, the studies and marriage of children or for their job or for the difficulties and problems prevailing in a family. Even when you worship in a church where the congregation is more than 2000 to 3000 believers, every one is able to feel and enjoy the presence of the Lord individually without any disturbance or hindrance and is able to have total communion and a divine relationship with the Lord throughout the service of 2 ½ hours. When some one comes to church for the first time, he is spotted even among a congregation

of thousands. He is welcomed, greeted,and introduced to other believers and enquired if he has any special prayer requirements for himself or for his family members.

Organizing conventions and retreats for the youth in the church for two to three days helps to inculcate good habits and thoughts in them at the right age before they are tempted to fall a prey to the worldly sins and attractions. Conducting Sunday classes for the young children shapes them for a holy life right from their childhood. Praying for peaceful co-existance in the area, praying for the welfare and development of the nation, for the wisdom of the elected body of politicians, local administration and government officials will definitely bring about a clean administration.

Praying for the victims of national calamities, disasters etc., helping the poor and downtrodden in times of their dire needs, for children's school admission, books, fees, having a feeling of oneness among all the members of the church irrespective of their social and financial status, caste or creed and inviting every member of the church to all the family functions etc. - all these and many other good things that I have not mentioned here came to my mind and I was really awe struck and dumbfounded. I really wondered how Jesus Christ is transforming the lives of the people even today and how His precious blood shed on Calvary is purifying, sanctifying and changing the lives of people.

What a vital and pivotal role the church, the pastor and the members play in the lives of its believers in shaping their mind, thoughts, deeds and helping them to become good citizens in the society! The whole world does not know what exactly Christianity is contributing to the world silently. Almost all non-Christians carry a wrong notion that Christians are fanatic and they are interested only in spreading Christianity and converting other religious people to Christianity. What are they going to get by converting people to Christianity? Nothing except that the people will become good peace loving, will get delivered from all sorts of sin such us smoking, alcoholism, drugs, peace loving and be free from violence, terrorism, unrest, crimes, law and order problems which

the government and other religions have been trying to eradicate for centuries but could not do anything at all.

I am fully convinced beyond any doubt that strict adherence to the teachings of the Bible alone can bring peace to the world and harmony among many religions and culture. I don't say that all Christians are good. There are bad people among Christians also. They are not actually Christians. Only for name's sake they are Christians. A real Christian will imbibe all the qualities of Jesus Christ and reflect His abundant love and holiness in all his activities and to every one in the society even under adverse circumstances. A true Christian who has Jesus Christ in his heart cannot act in any other way. He will not and cannot do a wrong thing as he is answerable to the Lord Jesus Christ. That fear of accountability is there in his heart. Hallelujah!

THOUGHTS THAT SURFACED IN MY MIND

"My heart is stirred by a noble theme" – Ps. 45:1 (NIV)

I could not but avoid the pain and the feelings that all these good things were not there in our religions. Even if it is a small temple, nobody bothers about us or anyone who comes to that temple for worship. There is none to greet us, befriend us or to have fellowship with us. There is nobody to enquire about our problems, difficulties or prayer requests if any and to pray for us. The priest is interested only in the offering one puts in his puja plate/hundi (offering box).

One cannot even pray for two minutes without being pushed or disturbed. Some body may touch you inadvertently or some one might extend his neck like a giraffe to have a darshan (look/sight) of the idol for himself alone without bothering that he is obstructing the views of others standing behind. Unwanted talk, gossip and thoughts in front of the sanctum sanctorum, the suffocation, congestion, overcrowding due to the narrow passage and space in the inner sanctum, distract you and your concentration and meditation is spoiled. Everybody pushing each other and feeling the hot breath of others on your bare shoulders, incomprehensible Sanskrit slogas and mantras chanted by the priest further distract your devotion.

One can find banana skins, plantain leaves, coconut shells and other trashes and rubbish inside the temple. The irony is that the devotees are ignorant to the extent that they don't even understand that they are spoiling the sanctity and holiness of the temple by throwing the rubbish. The height of foolishness of the temple administrators or servant of gods is seen in giving preference, priority and respect in front of the deity to politicians, government officials, meting out preferred treatment on the basis of their position, caste, community etc.

The temple, instead of sanctifying and purifying them or shaping and structuring the values of life, has just become a place of meaningless rituals which neither mould the devotees nor warn them against evil and sins or remind them of their accountability to God for all their deeds. I know that there are valuable and appreciable teachings in Hindu philosophy and scriptures. Similarly the teachings of Saints like Sai Baba, Sankaracharya and Bangaru Adigalar are really good. If one can follow their teachings in life, they may not sin in future. But what about the sins already committed by them? Who will or can wash their sins?

'Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins' says Sampoorna Mahabharatha. This has been repeated in many Hindu Vedas like 'Thandeeya Mahapramaanam'. Who has shed the blood for the sins of mankind except Jesus Christ? None. Neither any god or godmen or any acclaimed saints.

Life is full of problems, sickness, difficulties and tension. Every one has one or the other problem in their lives. They run from pillar to post and from one temple to the other, from one deity to the other, do all sorts of remedies like special offerings and pujas to the deities and planets. Yet their problems are not solved. Again they keep running to other places and are ready to do anything to solve their problems. They really don't understand the root cause for their problems or who creates or brings these problems to them. Without going to the root of it, they try to get some false satisfaction and liberation by running hither and hither. Having failed to find a solution, they finally try to find a sort of relief through alcohol, drugs or some intoxicants.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE TRUE GOD AND CREATOR

"He will be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" – Is. 9:6 (NIV)

Some of my friends told me that all the good teachings of the Bible were there in Hindu Scriptures and Vedas also. I could remember a parable once told by a Pastor in this context. A man while going from one village to the other, had to cross an isolated place full of wild growth of vegetation and he fell into a disused deep well. He could not climb up the well on his own and he cried for help. One man who heard his cry, came and saw him. He said, "Oh what a fool you are! Are you new to this place? Why did you choose this route? Even the local residents would hesitate to come this way at this time. At least you could have asked some one for the way. You people never learn anything". He said so many other things and went on his way.

One more person came on hearing his cry for help. He also expressed his pity for him and rebuked him for choosing to come that way especially at dusk. At least you could have taken a torch or lantern with you to give you enough light to show you the way. There is another route you could have chosen. What a poor man you are! It is nothing but your fate and karma! He also said so many soothing words and went on his way. Was there anything wrong in their words? Nothing was wrong. Everything was with full of concern, love and advice but what is the use?

A third person came on that way. He heard his cry. Immediately he climbed down the deep well risking his own life and helped him to come out of the well. In the process he lost his own life. But before dying, he advised him not to come that way any longer and to choose the right path next time and he died. Now can you see the difference? JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY GOD WHO DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS AND EXCESSES. ***He himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the whole world (John 2:2).*** HE ALONE IS THE LIVING GOD AND CARING GOD.

The Word of God in Acts 4:12 says clearly that ***only the Name of Jesus can save this human race.*** Only He has the power and

authority to forgive all our sins. He is the true God and Creator of this whole universe and all the living beings in it. He is Holy and makes us also holy. He is not a God to leave you at the mercy of your fate and karma but will save you at any cost. The Bible says, *"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)"*. HE IS ALMIGHTY LIVING GOD AND KING OF KINGS who can simply nullify and reverse all the fate and karma of men. Irrespective of caste, creed and nationality, the blood of Jesus is uniting everybody.

Thus the American Christians and Indo-American Christians loved me and Karthi as their own blood brothers and the extent and depth of their true Christian love brought tears to my eyes. I think, all these finally broke my stubbornness and unfounded hatred towards Christianity and brought me to Christ. Because of that, now my entire family is able to enjoy the peace, happiness and the blessings that we had not enjoyed earlier throughout our lives. Thank You Jesus for pouring Your unmatched holy love upon all those who come to you and making them also like you. Halleluiah!

HOLY BIBLE – A GUIDE FOR YOU TO BE HOLY

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul, it is trustworthy" ...Ps. 19:7 (NIV)

Mr. George Joy and his wife Sutha gave me an English Bible as a gift and asked me to read the New Testament and in particular the Sermon on the Mount. When I read them, I was bewildered, thrilled, awe-struck by its holiness, the love and compassion of the Father and His Son Lord Jesus Christ, His exemplary teachings, His personal example of living up to His teachings, His humility, His obedience to the Father, performing unimaginable and innumerable miracles of healing the sick, raising the dead and finally submitting Himself silently without any resistance to all the humiliation, torture and cruel crucifixion for the sake of all our sins to fulfil the Will of Father God!

I could not control my tears when I read about the torture meted out to the Almighty Son of God. The power of His life, words and His teachings were electric, magnetic, quite encompassing,

absorbing and sanctifying. King David says in Ps. 19:7-10, ***"The Law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul, it is trustworthy and it makes the simple very wise. The precepts of the Lord are right. They give joy to the heart, radiant and light to the eyes. They are more precious than gold, much more than pure gold, they are sweeter than honey. Lord's words are eternal and stand firm in the Heavens. They are a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. They are wonderful, trustworthy, our heritage and a joy to our heart".***

THE BIBLE SHOWED ME WHAT AN UNPARDONABLE SINNER I HAD BEEN

"God will grant them repentance leading them to knowledge of the Truth" – 2 Tim. 2:25 (NIV)

In the light of the Lord's teachings, I looked at myself. I was ashamed and felt so filthy and small to look at my own self. What a wretched and shameful life I have led so far. What a deplorable life I have had until now. Oh, for the first time in my life, I hated myself. What an unworthy vessel I had been. When I looked more deeply into my past life, my lips let out a painful, feeble voice in repentance – FATHER, I AM A SINNER, AN UNPARDONABLE SINNER. PLEASE FORGIVE ME, LORD!

I have lived so far only a sinful life, a life full of sins. My heart has been stinking like a gutter filled with filth, vulgarity, lust, anger, self conceit, lies, evil thoughts, jealousy envy, mean-mindedness and cunning. Oh, it has been full of trash! The realization was like a sharp knife plunged into my stomach. The Holy Book of the Lord showed me, like a mirror, all my past life. I understood that ***only the Lord Jesus can help me to be extricated from sin*** as *promised in Heb 2:18,* I fell down on my knees crying and sobbing for the Lord's forgiveness.

The very thought that ***Jesus Christ came to save the sinners of this world (1 Tim. 1:15) and He died for us, not when we were saints, but sinners (Rom. 5:8)*** brought tears to my eyes. I could feel the warmth of the Lord's comforting embrace. I could feel the

presence of the Holy Spirit in me and peace amidst all the trials and troubles. I could feel His awesome Presence wherever I went, whatever I did, either sleeping, walking or standing. Whatever small or big prayers or requests I made, they were immediately answered. JESUS CHRIST IS A PRAYER ANSWERING GOD. He is with us always. He will be with every one who seeks Him. He says '**I knock the door. Whoever opens the door, I will dine with them and they with me'**. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

DELIVERED FROM FORTY YEARS OF ALCOHOLISM

"If the son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed" – John 8:36 (NIV)

Whenever I testified and glorified the Lord to any one I met, Satan did not like it. He would immediately create some problem in Karthi's health. Having learnt the technique to face and fight the demon's tricks, I chased away Satan with faithful prayers in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Our Lord has already crushed his head on Calvary and he is now a snake with a cracked head. And a crack?! Our strong faith and continuous prayers can only be the weapon to keep him away from us. But we have to be always watchful about him as he is clever, cunning, tempting and does not allow you that easily to come out of your old habits.

Although I had grown strong in faith, I could not fully become holy and leave all my old habits. I was with the Indian Air Force for 26 years and I was used to hard liquor for more than 40 years now. I had almost become an alcoholic. I used to have a strong will. For sometime I smoked. Then I gave up smoking and started off with chewing pan (betel leaves) and tobacco. To give up chewing tobacco, I picked up snuffing. Like that I was in and out of one or the other bad habit. With my will power I used to start anything and give up anything.

I tried many a time to stop my drinking habit after coming to Jesus, but I could not. I thought I had mastered it, but alas! It had mastered me. The Bible says clearly in John 8:34 that he who commits sin is a slave to sin. I had become a slave to drinking. Finally I went

and cried to the Lord in the church to help me come out of this bad habit. The Lord heard my prayers, saw my tears and sincerity and MY 40 YEARS' DRINKING HABIT AND ADDICTION LEFT ME AND I WAS TOTALLY DELIVERED. The thought of alcohol never came to my mind afterwards.

The Lord says in 1 John 1:7-9, ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sins".*** No more tobacco or snuff or any other bad habits since then. The Lord has made me totally free from all vices and addictions. ***If the Son (Jesus Christ) makes you free, you are free indeed – Jn. 8:3.*** ASK ANYTHING IN HIS NAME SINCERELY AND WITH TEARS. JESUS WILL DEFINITELY SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR ADDICTIONS AND SINFUL HABITS! Hallelujah!

WHAT AN AWESOME, HOLY, ALMIGHTY, LOVEABLE GOD JESUS IS!

"..Who is like you – Majestic in Holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" – Exo. 15:11 (NIV)

In Hinduism, there are gods for each and every virtue like education, wisdom, wealth, protection, destruction, creation etc. Many Hindu Vedas and Upanishads clearly depict the highest qualities and godliness required for a god to be worshipped. Whether all the so called gods whom we call by a thousand names possess such virtues and godly qualities or not, I leave to the readers to judge. When I read the New Testament in the Bible, I was astonished and to see the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ, His adherence to His own teachings. He preached what He practiced. His qualities, righteousness, unbiased judgement, covenants, promises, healing and resurrecting power, His oneness with God, the Supreme, His holy and unblemished character and His supreme sacrifice for His creations to give total remission of sins, His abundant and unceasing love, His total submission and obedience to Father God, His humility and every word of His preaching was breathtaking, purifying, sanctifying and holy and I was amazed.

Think of any or all the godly qualities or virtues, they all belong to Jesus Christ. Name a good thing, it belongs to Him. HE IS MATCHLESS, SUPREME, KING OF KINGS! NO ONE ELSE! ***"No one is like you O Lord, you are great and your name is mighty in power"- Jeremiah 10:6-7.*** No God of any religion in this whole universe can even think of coming near to Jesus Christ to match His holiness, qualities, teachings, sacrifice and promises. He alone is the only and fittest God to be worshipped in the whole universe. Jesus Christ did not die on the cross of Calvary for Christians alone. *1Jn. 2:2* says, ***"The blood of Jesus was shed for all human beings"***. Yes, He died for every body, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or nationality. Hence Jesus Christ alone is the only God for every one, every religion, every nation and for the entire universe!

In Hindu temples, when the priest does the abhishekam (the anointing) or archanai or worship, he normally chants some slogas. I don't know if everyone knows the meaning of those Sanskrit slogas. I am sure, the priest himself does not know the meaning or who they are really meant for. In fact all the slogas point to and glorify only Jesus Christ! See the following slogas in Sanksrit.

Om Brahma puthiraya namaha (Brahma = Father; puthiraya = son (Jesus Christ), namaha = we worship – meaning we exalt, pray and worship Jesus Christ, the Son of the Supreme Father. Refer to John 3:16).

Om Kanni suthaya namaha (Oh Lord, who is born of a virgin, we worship You. See Mt: 1:23. No God in this world is born of a virgin and without a human seed except Jesus Christ).

Om Pancha kaaya namaha (Oh Lord, You bore five wounds in Your body for our sake, we adore You and worship You. See Is: 53:5).

Om Viruchasoola arundhaya namaha (Oh Lord, You were nailed on the cross for us, for all our sins and sicknesses. We glorify You. See I Pet: 2:24). **"Sampoorna Mahabharatha" says** – *'Raththa prodhoshanam; paapa vinasam'* meaning 'only through the shedding of blood, sin can be washed away (remission)'.

The second part of **Saama Veda** ie. **'Thaandiya Mahapramaanam'** says that even if the Prajapathi (the Creator of this universe and all the inhabitants including human beings) wants to give remission of sins to His own creations, He has to offer his own flesh on the sacrificial altar and perform yagna. To wash away the sins of human beings, the blood of a human being is to be shed, not the blood of a goat, or cow, or a buffalo or a hen. But that blood has to be holy and without any sin.

For securing the bail for a criminal, another criminal cannot go and get it. Only a person without a criminal record can go and secure the bail of a criminal.Similarly to wash away the sins of a man, holy blood, blood without any sin has to be shed. No one had such blood except Jesus Christ. Because He was the only person who could challenge and say, 'Is there any one who could point a finger at me for having committed any sin?' He only had the boldness, uprightness and courage to proclaim that He was sinless. He shed His precious holy blood for the sins, iniquities and atrocities of all mankind. No other god in any religion has shed their blood or died for us or for our sins.

To tell you the truth, no Hindu god has forgiven the sins of any or pardoned sinners. They had in fact taken incarnations only to kill, condemn or destroy sinners. Many examples can be quoted from Hindu Vedas like Soora samharam, Padmasura vadham, Narahasura vadam, Hiranya vadam and many more like this to prove that they are not the creators of mankind or this universe.

If we had two children of whom one was spoilt due to bad company, will we kill him or eliminate him? A neighbour may say, if I had a son like him I would have got him aborted while he was in his mother's womb or killed him by poisoning his food. Can his parents tell these words? No, they will never say. In fact they would have been more worried and concerned about this spoilt son than their good son because they only have laboured and suffered to beget him and to bring him up to this age. Isn't it? Similarly only Jesus Christ who had created us and breathed His breath into us, cares for us and is worried about us. He does not want us to remain spoiled and go to hell at any cost. That is why He alone shed His precious blood and sacrificed His life to give us (His creation) ,

deliverance and salvation. ***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. He is the atoning sacrifice for all our sins and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world - 1Jn.2:2.*** From this itself, one can understand who created this world and mankind. The Bible emphatically states in Heb. 9:22 that ***there is no remission of sin without shedding of blood.*** All the Hindu Vedas and Upanishads also clearly admit and acknowledge this fact.

Om Miruthan jeyaya namaha (Oh Lord who scored victory and triumph over death and hell, we hail You. See Is: 25:8. All those self-proclaimed god men and god incarnates are dead, buried and their cemeteries still remain closed. None of them are known to have ever come alive again. Jesus Christ is the only God who died on the cross for our sins, was buried in the presence of every one and ***on the third day was resurrected and came out alive to be seen by His twelve disciples and plenty of people in Jerusalem*** **- 1 Corin. 15:3,4.**

His cemetery is still open. It is history, not a story or epic but questioned, researched and proved beyond anyone's doubt and recorded by many scholars, researchers and archeologists. The birth of Lord Jesus Christ was recorded in the census report taken during the reign of Augustus Caesar. Jesus Christ is the only God who could say, ***"I have power to lay it down and have power to take it. This command I have received from My Father"- John 10:17-18.***

Om Nama sivaaya namaha (Sivam = Love. Oh loving Lord, we uphold Your name and praise You. Jesus Christ exhibited the divine love and has defined what and how love should be in I Corin. 13:4-8. ***Love is patient, kind, it does not envy, boast, and it does not feel proud, rude, self seeking and not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres and never fails.*** None on earth can measure the depth of His love towards us. Eph. 3:18 exclaims, ***"How wide, long, high and deep is the love of Christ!"***

Om Sathaa Sivaaya namaha (Oh Lord, You always love us. We lift up Your name and magnify it. See Hebrew 13:8. Jesus Christ never changes. His love never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and for ever).

All the siddhars, saints and godmen of yester millennium have sung innumerable songs praising the Lord Jesus and they have categorically said that salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ and He alone is the true and the only God. The Lord Himself has said in Jere. 32:27 in no uncertain terms **I AM THE LORD, THE GOD OF ALL MANKIND**. Further He has also warned in Duet. 5:7 that **YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

Agasthia Munivar, Azhugini Siddhar, Paambaatti Siddhar, Korakka Munivar, Pattinathu adigal, Thiruvalluvar, Thirumoolar and so many other well known Siddhars and godmen have written many songs about Jesus and have declared Jesus Christ alone is the real and the only God. All those songs were hidden, many destroyed and did not see the light of the day because of the Aryans. A few had somehow miraculously been saved and found. With that I have written a book in Tamil about all these Siddhars and their poems praising the glory of Lord Jesus Christ titled **"The real God found by Siddhargal (godmen)".** To enable every one to easily buy and distribute among many whom they think should not go to hell, the book is priced at Rs 10 only. More than 65,000 copies have already been sold out (as on November 2009). Those who read this book will definitely come to know the real god who can take them to Heaven! When I read the Bible more deeply, I was convinced beyond any doubt that ONLY JESUS CHRIST IS AND CAN BE THE LORD FOR EVERY ONE IN THIS WORLD!

MY DEEPLY ROOTED FAITH IN JESUS

"I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed" – 2 Tim. 1:12 (NIV)

I wrote about everything in detail regularly to my family in India about my personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the miracles that happened in Karthi's life, the love and the help being shown by Christian friends in the US and also spoke to them by phone every

week. Brother Verghese Pulikottil wrote to Sam Uncle, one of his relatives in Madras. Sam Uncle, his wife and their friends visited my family regularly in my absence and extended all moral support and comfort to my family in addition to prayers.

Their regular visits, prayers coupled with my letters about Jesus Christ sowed the seeds of faith in my family also. Probably Satan did not like it and he wanted to play around. The shunt fixed below the brain of my son failed for the third time and his condition worsened again on 31st January 2001. Having carried out so many surgeries on him already, the Neurosurgeon was skeptical now. He called me and said consolingly and hesitantly that immediate surgery was needed for my son but he was not in a position to give any guarantee for his life or for the success of the surgery. He said that even if my son survived, he might not be able to walk, marry or take up a job in his life. That was the limit of their medical profession and acumen!

I had unshakable faith in the healing power of Jesus. Reflecting that faith in my talk, I told those Christian doctors in an undeterred tone, "My son will survive, he will get up and walk and he will be all right. You do not know the power of Jesus. ***He will send His Word and heal him and deliver him from destruction (Ps. 107:20).*** Now that you have raised your hands of inability, you will now see for yourself the miracle-working power of the Lord. Go ahead and do the surgery". After saying this I walked out of the doctor's chamber, with a heart brimming with firm faith and a new hope!

THE HEALING POWER OF THE LORD JESUS

"Jesus went throughout Galilee healing every disease and sickness" – Mt. 4:23 (NIV)

The hopeless and discouraging words spoken by the surgeon were ringing in my ears but I did not worry. Having spoken out my unshakable faith and trust in Jesus, I was quite calm and unperturbed. I made a simple prayer, "Father, let this surgery be the last one on my son. Be with the surgeon during the surgery. Bless the surgeon; give him enough wisdom and knowledge to do the surgery properly. May Your healing power be showered on my son. He is yours. Bless him Father. In Jesus mighty name I pray. Amen"

Brother George Joy was with me when the doctors spoke to me. He immediately rang up many believers throughout America to fast and pray for my son's surgery. The LORD DID THE MIRACLE AGAIN and proved His promise in Ex. 15:26 that ***He is the Lord who heals you.*** The surgery was successful and my son regained consciousness fully in fifteen minutes after the major surgery. That was very unusual. And that was the last surgery on my son! Praise the Lord!

The doctors were astonished and wondered at the fast recovery of my son. They said that it was unbelievable, very good and quite amazing. I told them that only those types of words would come out of their mouth hereafter as they were commenting on the Lord's work. My son was transferred to the normal ward on the next day itself and to the Rehab. Centre in another ten days.

STRANDED ON THE STREETS OF THE US WITH A HANDICAPPED SON

"My life is consumed by anguish"...Ps. 31:10 (NIV)

I had stayed in the US for 8 months and I was staying in an apartment in Beaverton where my son was sharing it with four of his friends. The rent was 940 US dollars i.e. about Rs 45000 per month. Some how I managed to pay it as it was being shared by five. Three of his friends moved out in course of time leaving behind the two of us. Since the rent was exorbitant to be borne only by two, the other person wanted to move out to live with some of his friends, thereby subjecting me to pay the full rent from 01st June 2001 onwards besides changing the rental contract to my name and leaving me to pay six months' rental advance @ Rs 45000 per month.

I could not even think of having to pay such a heavy rent leave alone the six months advance! And I did not know what to do further. To make my situation worse, my son was completing 100 days in the Rehabilitation Centre on 31st May 2001 beyond which the Insurance conditions did not have any provision to meet the expenses in a calendar year. If my son had to stay in the Rehabilitation Centre after 1st June 2001, the expenses had to be borne by me or alternatively I had to shift him to my apartment. The fee for the Rehab. Centre including the medication for my son was 500 dollars a day i.e. Rs 24000/-. My head began to swirl.

Neither could I think of paying the Rehabilitation charges by myself nor take my son to my apartment where I was unable to pay the rent. A situation had come in which virtually my son and I could not stay in the US after 1st June 2001. Then I thought, why not I return to India with my son? But Karthi's condition was quite unpredictable and very unstable. The Lord had saved his life! But 100% recovery and healing was miles away.

He had no memory. His eye sight was diminishing, he could not speak as his tongue was pulled inside because of tracheostomy, he had no control over his bladder and bowel. His lower portion below the hip was totally paralyzed and he had to be tied tightly to the wheel chair with a belt when he was made to sit on it, lest he should fall in the front or collapse by the side. He was just a living vegetable. Bringing him to India in such a precarious and unpredictable condition by travelling about 32 hours by air was really risky. Yet I had decided to return to India and started exploring the possibility of the medical evacuation of my son by air.

On enquiry, I was told that it would cost around 15800 dollars i.e. roughly 7.5 lakhs in Indian currency. I was dumbfounded. I spoke to Ms Susan Baumgardner, Director of International Medical Services in St Vincent Hospital who had then become a close friend of us. She spoke to the Insurance Company about the medical evacuation of my son to India which would be only a one time expense for the Insurance Company. But the Insurance Company did not agree to it saying that it would set a wrong precedence and once they agreed to give for Karthik, there might be innumerable similar requests from other patients. I was struck dumb and stranded alone having come to a dead end.

KNOCK, THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED. THE LORD OPENED IT EVEN WITHOUT MY KNOCKING

"I will break down the gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches stored in secret places" – Is. 45:2-3 (NIV)

I did not know the way out or what to do further or whom to approach. All the ways and doors had been shut for me. Neither

could I stay in the apartment beyond 01st June 2001 nor my son in the Rehab. Centre nor could we return to India. We were virtually stranded in the streets of a foreign land with none to help and nowhere to go with a handicapped son who could neither talk nor stand nor walk. It is not a small amount to ask anyone. 7.5 lakhs Rupees! Who will give? What to do?

In my helpless condition I had nothing else to do except to look to the Lord Jesus. I knelt down and fell at the Lord's feet, tears rolling down my cheeks. I could not even pray or tell my situation to Him. I only wept and poured out my heart silently like Hannah. The Lord can know my hopeless condition. Only He knows and He alone can reverse it. He alone can help me. None else. ***The Lord who makes way in the desert and streams in the waste land*** - *Isaiah 43:19* ***and who breaks down the gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron and blesses you the treasures of darkness and riches stored in secret places*** - *Isaiah 45:2,3*, heard my silent prayers and saw my tears.

He broke open the impossible iron gates for me. He opened a way for me where there was no way at all and allowed the streams to flow in the hopeless condition of my life and gave me the treasures and riches stored in secret places. Next morning I received a long distance phone call from Atlanta, North America, almost more than 2000 miles away from Portland, Oregon State, where I was staying. It was from the President of Datamatics Consultants who had initially selected my son for a job in the US. He said to me, "How are you, Mr. Thayappan? How is Karthik? I am sorry I had not contacted you for a long time. Last night, all of a sudden something struck me and I remembered you and Karthik. The sudden impulse and feeling was so compelling, I just waited for the day to break to call you up".

Jesus Christ had just pressed the button as soon as I had knelt down and prayed to Him! Hallelujah! The President then asked me if he could do anything for me. I told him about our situation, my inability to keep my son further in the Rehab.Centre or to bring him to my apartment where I could not stay any longer. I also told him about the medical evacuation and the refusal of the Insurance Company to meet the travel expenses. He asked me how much.

I asked him for 10000 dollars. Without a moment's hesitation even for a minute, he said, "I will give you the money. Ask the Medical Evacuation Airlines to fax me the bill." I was stunned. I told him that I could not think of repaying such a heavy amount at any time during my life time.

He said that it was not a loan but ONLY A GIFT FROM HIM! I could not believe my ears. I could only shed tears on seeing the unbelievable mercy and grace of the Lord. He said that if he was woken up in the middle of the night and made to remember me, it was the will of the Lord and he had to implicitly obey. THE LORD DOES THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE IMAGINED BY ANY ONE! How aptly Job says in Job 5:9 that *the Lord performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted!* In Eph. 3:20 Apostle Paul also exclaims *that the Lord is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine according to His power that is at work in us!*

FLYING BACK TO INDIA – TEARFUL FAREWELL BY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" – John 3:35 (NIV)

Flight Tickets were booked for us to leave the US on 27th May 2001 along with a male nurse from Los Angeles to accompany us and to return to the US after leaving us at our house in Madras. I prayed to the Lord to be with us during the travel, to protect my son under His wings and to give him enough strength to endure the long journey's stress and strain.

A tearful farewell was given to us by my Christian friends who had by then become my brothers and sisters by the blood of Jesus. Pastor Jacob George, George Joy, Chitra Prentice (a Maharashtrian Brahmin, now a convert and an American citizen working as a nurse in St Vincent Hospital) and so many others flooded me with garments for my daughter, younger son Sakthi, shoes, sweets and chocolates, books and so many other gifts. They provided cardboard boxes, other packing materials and packed all my bag and baggage.

Bro.Verghese Pulikkottil removed the back seats of his jeep to make room for my luggage and brought them to the airport. Almost every one from the Indian Church over there came to the airport to bid farewell to us with tears rolling down their cheeks. Every body was very emotional and I could never forget such an emotional farewell.

Not only Indians but many people irrespective of caste, creed, nationality and language have now become my blood brothers and sisters. They keep enquiring about us and Karthi's progress by phones, e-mails and personal visits whenever they come to India on vacation. They continue to pray for him even today. Oh how lucky we are to have acquired such a big family with the blessings of Jesus Christ. Now ***"In Him we live, move and have our being. And we are His offspring" - Acts 17:28.***

WE WERE CHOSEN SPECIALLY FOR THE LORD'S GLORY
"...God who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace" – Gala. 1:15 (NIV)

Before leaving for India, I was praying to the Lord. Let Your will be done in us. My only request was – let me not take my son in a wheel chair to India. That will not glorify Jesus' name. Bless him to get up and walk to the aircraft and get off on his own. Heal him completely. By keeping him still on the wheel chair, how can I say to my friends and relatives that Jesus had saved my son's life and hence we have become Christians?

Jesus answered my prayer through a prophecy by a visiting Indian Pastor from Pune Bible College – Pastor Paulson who happened to learn about us and visited us in the Rehab. Centre. While praying for us, the Holy Spirit prompted him to tell me that MY SON WILL BE HEALED. NOT HERE, BUT IN INDIA! If he is healed in the US, only a couple of hundreds will come to know of the Lord's miracle. But if it is in India,MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL BE TOUCHED BY THE LORD AND SAVED BY KARTHI'S MIRACULOUS HEALING!

I accepted and readily agreed if the delay in healing my son was for the glory of the Lord. Although I had agreed, in my heart of

hearts I had a question and doubt as to how millions of people were going to be touched by Karthi's healing. May be about 100 families knew us well in our living area. About 100 friends and equal number of relatives; all put together it was not going to be more than 300 to 400 persons. I was thinking how this prophecy was going to work. I was ignorant of God's plan. I did not know that the Lord was going to use this wretched sinner for His glory!

THE PROPHECY HAS COME TRUE NOW!

"How unsearchable His judgements, and his paths beyond tracing out!" – Rom. 11:33 (NIV)

When Mr. Lindsey from Seattle, a close friend of Bro.Verghese Pulikkottil came to India on a vacation, he came to see Karthi. After hearing my testimony, with tears he compelled me to record it in a cassette which he said would strengthen many Christians and touch many non-Christians. Instead of an extempore recording of my testimony, I thought it would be better if it was first written down and then recorded. That's how I wrote my first testimony **"My cry and joy"** in English in 2002.

Later it was revised and published in Tamil in 2003 and further reprinted with additions and more miracles in 2004 as **"My cry and joyful new life"** in Tamil. Now 2,00,000 copies are in circulation in Tamil as on date (FEB 2010). It has already been translated and released in Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu. In Hindi and Marathi it is translated and is in print. The Lord was kind enough to bless me to release a VCD for only Rs.ten containing all the miracles done by the Lord for us along with a message and gospel to the Gentiles. In ten months' time more than one lakh thirty thousand copies have been sold. Praise be to God.

Every day we receive plenty of phone calls from Christians and non-Christians from all over the world praising the book and the VCD and enquiring about Karthi's health. Some one said that this testimony book should be in every Christian house and all non-Christians should read this book. A believer from a CSI in Tuticorin purchased 1000 VCDs and gave them away as gifts to all those who attended the wedding of his sister. Once in two months

he is buying another 1000 VCDs and all my books to distribute among the Gentiles free of cost. He does it as a ministry.

A lady from Virugambakkam in Chennai is buying 200 books every month and after fasting distributes them free of cost in Chennai Railway station to passengers traveling in Mumbai express, Calcutta mail and GT express. She says, they are going to travel for nearly 36 hours and to pass time they might read this book and the Lord will definitely speak to them through this book. People say that these books and the VCDs are the best tools at a very cheap price for spreading the gospel. The testimony is touching thousands and thousands all over the world.

To tell the truth, I had not written any book earlier and I have absolutely no talents for it and this book is not written by me with my talent or wisdom. I had the urge and unquenchable thirst that I must tell the whole world what an awesome God Jesus Christ is whom I had not known for 58 years. He is the only living God, loving God and caring God. Before writing this testimony, I just prayed to the Lord, "Father, I am a lay man. I don't know how to write my testimony. But I want to write, cry and shout to the whole world about Your unending, matchless love. Give me wisdom and words."

The Lord answered my prayers. ***"Call to Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know."- Jere. 33:3 (NKJV)*** and the Lord gave me the words to write. No wonder it is touching so many souls! Now I am being called to various churches to share my testimony and in many public meetings to tell the gospel to non-Christians. Many miracles happen to those who pray with tears and faith after reading this book. A lot of people addicted to drinks, drugs and smoking are being delivered from their bondage and getting healed of their diseases and sicknesses. The Lord's prophecy that millions and millions will be touched by this testimony is becoming a reality and there is a great revival among Christians also.

At the time of leaving the US, I was given a surprise information about another prophecy told in the Indian church there about six

months prior to the arrival of Karthi in the US. A visiting pastor from India had prophesied that AN INDIAN BOY AFTER COMING TO THIS PLACE WILL FALL SICK AND FINALLY HE WILL BE SAVED BY THE LORD. THROUGH HIS HEALING, THERE WILL BE A REVIVAL AND FIRE IN YOUR MINISTRIES! THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS WILL BE SAVED BY HIS MIRACULOUS HEALING!

The Lord was kind enough to promise in Ps. 91:14 ***"Because he has set his love upon Me, I will deliver him, I will set him on high, because he has known My name".*** The Lord never fails. He is so accurate in predicting things. The prophecy has come true now! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

OUR BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S GRACE

"Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled"- Mt. 5:6 (NIV)

I had a desire to take water baptism(baptism by immersion) before leaving the US. Special arrangements were made in Portland City Bible Church to baptize my son in the wheel chair itself. My son raised both his hands for the first time during water baptism. Praise the Lord. My testimony before my baptism brought tears and ovation from all the American believers who attended the service and the Indian Christian brothers celebrated our baptism as their own family festival.

I wondered how my son was going to endure the long 32 Hours flight journey from Portland to Madras. But the Lord's promise in Psalm 121:8 ***the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore,*** gave me the assurance and peace. True to His promise, the Lord protected my son and made him withstand the long 32 hrs-flight without any problem.

In the flight I sat back and recalled the whole episode with tears rolling down my cheeks. I had stayed eight months in the US. The first three months, I don't want to even recall . It was the darkest, painful period of my life. The next five months we were tasting the love of Lord Jesus Christ and His children and experiencing the various miracles of the Lord in our life, I had almost lost my son.

Absolutely there was no hope at all. The doctors had given him up. THE DEITIES WHOM I HAD BELIEVED FOR THE LAST 58 YEARS HAD PROVED TO BE NOTHING BUT LIFELESS STONES, METALS AND MUD. FINALLY, JESUS CHRIST SAVED MY SON FROM THE VALLEY OF DEATH.

The medical expenses I could not even think of. My son had worked only for 25 days in the US, not even one full month. More than Rs. 3.5 Crores had been spent on my son. And I can never think of raising the 7.5 lakhs for our travel back to India. It was humanly impossible for me. BUT ALL WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE LORD FOR ME. True to His promise, the Lord made me witness innumerable miracles. Thank You Lord. I love You. You are wonderful. I owe everything in my life to You. Hallelujah!

OH LORD, PLEASE TOUCH MY FAMILY

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" – Josh. 24:15 (NIV)

Another thought that was troubling my mind was – how my family, relatives and friends were going to react to our conversion to Christianity and baptism. My elder brother had an intense hatred towards Christianity as I had. My wife, daughter Gayathri and younger son Sakthi were staunch Adhi Parasakthi devotees. When I came to India, I saw my wife and children still wearing red clothes, going to Hindu temples, lighting the lamps and keeping tilak and sacred ash in their forehead. I kept telling them what Jesus Christ had done for us and how Karthi's life had been saved by His grace. Nothing entered into their head. Although they were my own wife and children, I never wanted to compel them or thrust forcibly Jesus Christ as their Saviour. I just knelt down and prayed to the Lord with tears.

In the middle of the night I used to get up from my sleep and cry out to the Lord to touch my entire family and envelop them with His love. "Father, we read in *Acts 16:21* – ***Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household.*** *I believe You Master.* I believe only You. ***As for me and my household we will serve You only. Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other Gods. (Josh. 24:15-16***). Please touch and save my

family only to serve You". THE LORD HEARD MY PRAYERS AND TOUCHED EVERY ONE OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS WITH A MIRACLE! Hallelujah!

"DADDY, YOUR JESUS IS REALLY POWERFUL"– MY YOUNGER SON SAKTHI

"And He will be called 'Mighty God'" – Is. 9:6 (NIV)

In the first week of June 2001, after passing X class examination under CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) syllabus, my younger son Sakthi wanted to join Zion Higher Secondary School in South Madras, one of the nearby good schools in State Board syllabus to study XI and XII standards. All my children studied up to X class in CBSE syllabus in Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) and then they changed to State Board for XI and XII in order to score good marks and join a professional college.

Only at the time of our going to that school, he told me hesitantly "Daddy, I heard that Zion School does not admit any one with less than 80% marks in X class". My son has obtained only 58.9% in the aggregate. I looked at him and rebuked him saying "When you knew this, you should have studied well to score good marks in your final exam. I don't know anybody in that school. How do you expect me to get you admission there?" He said, "That I don't know. But I want to join only Zion school as all my friends have joined that school". "I know only one person now - Jesus Christ. Do you believe Him?" My son was just looking at me without answering.

I told him, "Pray to Him. He alone can get you the admission. None else". He still looked totally confused and not convinced. I said, ***"The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me"- Ps. 138:8*** *and repeat it three times in full faith. The Psalmist says in Ps. 37:5* ***"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this for you"***.He repeated it with his whole heart and faith. I just prayed to the Lord in the street itself. "Father, please help me to get admission for my son to Zion school. I have none else to approach. I look only to You Father. I claim what You have promised me in Psalm 138:8 and 37:5 and thank You for blessing my prayers. In Jesus' mighty name I pray, Amen".

I went with my son to that school. There was a big crowd of parents and their wards seeking admission to various classes. I approached a teacher for an application form for admission to XI Std. She then asked me the marks secured by my son. When I told her the marks, she abruptly told me, "Please don't disturb us. We don't admit any child with less than 80% marks. Please go to some other school". Her tone was curt and unfriendly. "Can I see the Principal?" I asked. "You may see anybody but you will get the same reply. If you still want to see him, go and stand in that queue" she said and went off.

I looked at the queue. It was a long one and the parents were standing there with worried faces. I also joined the queue and started praying. After 30 minutes my turn came to go into the Principal's room. I went in and introduced myself, "I am Ex-Warrant Officer Thayappan, retired from the Indian Air Force". As soon as I said this, a person who was sitting in front of the Principal turned to me and said,"Are you the same Thayappan who was in Delhi, very famous in Tamil dramas? Guru (mentor) of Delhi Ganesh, the popular Tamil cinema actor?" I said,"Yes" wondering who this person was whom I had never seen before.

He then turned to the Principal and introduced me very impressively as one of the eminent and popular persons in Delhi and helped every one who had approached me for any help and very famous in Tamil Dramas etc. Instead of my introducing myself to the Principal, the Lord had set someone else to introduce me more effectively. Hallelujah! The Principal looked at me and said, "Oh, I see. Glad to meet you. What can I do for you?" Then I requested him to admit my son to his school. He then asked for the marks of my son, When I told him the marks, his face became very small. He said that he had not given admission to anyone with less than 80% marks.

I then explained to him my son's sickness, the torment and trauma undergone by our family during last year. I assured him that the LORD WHO GIVES VICTORY AND TRIUMPH TO ALL HIS CHILDREN IS WITH US NOW! My son will definitely pass the exam with more than 90% marks and asked for admission in Jesus' name. He was taken

aback by the tone of my faith and assurance and with a stunned look he tapped the table for a second and without speaking another word, gave me a chit for the admission of my son to the Biology group!

When we came out of the Principal's room, my son met two of his friends who could not secure admission with 74% and 76% marks. My son then told me, "Daddy, I admit that your Jesus is really powerful!". I said, "No, He is not my Jesus. He is our Jesus and your Jesus! Do you receive Him as your personal Saviour? He said,"YES" and received Him! After a week, the Lord blessed my son to get the computer group which he wanted very much instead of the Biology group.

I sent my son for a three day Youth camp organized by Blessing Youth Mission in Sitteri Hills where he was moulded as a true Christian believer and came forward to take water baptism. After baptism, my son Sakthi became Sakthi Stephen! Now he is a strong lad in Christ and all his previous habits and behaviour are totally changed. The Lord also blessed him with 91% marks in his XII final exams. How true His promises are! ***"Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame"***- *Rom. 10:11*. The Living God who promised is faithful in keeping His word (2 Thes. 3:3). Praise the Lord!

NO CASTE OR COMMUNITY IN CHRISTIANITY

"There is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all" – Rom. 10:12 (NIV)

My son Sakthi Stephen wanted to join BE (Bachelor of Engineering) degree course in Computer Science. Engineering college admissions are obtained either through Management quota by paying heavy donations or through Entrance examinations conducted by DOTE (Directorate of Technical Education). The total marks obtained in Plus Two examinations and the reservation quota for each caste/ community will also be taken into consideration and seniority list as per marks obtained will be prepared accordingly and seats allotted to candidates in the college of their choice.

Through this system, it is very difficult to get the college of your choice. The students and the parents will have to keep watching the day to day position of seats/college allotment and on the day

of counselling they have to decide the college within a few seconds. So every parent normally selected at least 5 or 6 colleges and they would be worried and very anxious till their turn came up for counselling. Even then most of them would not get the colleges of their choice and they would grumble.

But I had selected only one college – Jerusalem Engineering College for my son and did not bother to select any alternative colleges. Many wondered what a fool I was to select only one college. What if all the seats in that particular college are filled ? I told them what my Lord Jesus Christ has said ***"Ask and it will be given to you"**- Mat. 7:7*. Surely my Lord will give my son the college he desires. They used to look at me skeptically and inwardly laugh at my stupidity.

There is no caste or forward or backward community after receiving Jesus Christ. All become one, one family and are made brothers/ sisters through the precious blood of Jesus. Some converted Christians as well as traditional Christians still have caste, community feelings and affinity. Truly they have not imbibed the spirit and teachings of Jesus. They are Christians only in name.

Although my entire family had accepted Jesus and become Christians, I was yet to get it changed officially through Government Gazette notification. I had the previous community certificate for Stephen obtained earlier and attended the counselling on 13th June 2003 with that certificate. Based on the marks obtained and community quota allotment, my son got the seat allotment in the same Jerusalem Engineering College. But Satan played a trick and brought an impediment in getting the allotment order.

The counselling officer after verifying my son's community certificate signed by Tambaram Tahsildar said that I would have to obtain and produce the certificate from my native place – Sattur by 25th June 2003 failing which the allotment order would be cancelled. There was statewide government employees' strike in Tamil Nadu. No government office was functioning in the State since 2nd June 2003. The strike was prolonging indefinitely without any possible solution

due to the tough stand taken by the State Government.

I mentioned the strike to the Counselling officer but he said, "I am sorry. I understand your problem. But I cannot help you. Somehow you will have to get a new certificate. If you don't produce the community certificate duly signed by the Tahsildar of your native place by June 25th, this seat will be allotted to someone else." I was stuck and did not know what to do further. I approached a distant relative who was also a Tahsildar in a nearby town. His reply was quite heart breaking and discouraging. He said that nowadays getting a community certificate was too difficult even with all the relevant supporting documents and evidence for my stay at the native place. Added to that, all the government offices were closed.

The way it looked, the strike was not likely to come to an end before the month end and I was really worried. I knelt down and prayed to the Lord for help and then made an application to Sattur Tahsildar, explaining my son's plight and enclosed copies of all our previous community certificates and sent them to my relative. Days were passing without any reconciliation between the government and the employees' unions. I was losing hope but intensified my prayers. I rang up my relative every day but his reply was demoralizing. It was 24th and the next day was the last day for producing the certificate. My BP was going up and my tension was mounting. I did not even feel like talking to any one in the house. I just fasted and kept on praying. My son and the entire family were worried and were silently praying. Each minute ticked away with tension and suspense.

In the evening, our telephone rang and the ring tone indicated that it was a long distance call. My son rushed to pick up the receiver and after listening, he said the call was from Sattur. My relative was on the line. He was shouting with joy. He said that a Deputy Tahsildar who was on sick leave prior to the commencement of the strike had joined duty and he was posted to Sattur. He arrived in the office that morning and he approached him with my application. After reading it, the Tahsildar asked him to obtain a counter signature from the Village Administrative Officer and

Revenue Inspector. He ran up, found them and requested them explaining the situation and urgency. They signed the certificate and then the Deputy Tahsildar also signed the certificate.

It was a miracle. Every thing happened unexpectedly. It looked as if that Dy.Tahsildar joined duty only to sign my certificate My relative told me that he had sent the certificate through courier and that I would get it in the morning. When I heard the information, I could not hold my tears on thinking of the Lord's mercy. JESUS NEVER FORSAKES YOU. Proverb 28:25 says, ***"He who trusts in the Lord will be prospered"***. Why can't the people trust this unfailing, promise keeping Lord? HE DOES IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEYOND OUR THINKING AND IMAGINATION!

Next morning by 10 O' clock, I received the courier and immediately rushed to Anna University and produced the certificate to the counseling officer. He was really surprised to see the certificate and asked me how I got it when the strike was still going on. I explained every thing to him. He said that it was really a miracle and that God was really helping me. He released the allotment and gave me the allotment order for my son to join Jerusalem Engineering College. JESUS IS REALLY GREAT! Is He not? Hallelujah!

CATCH THEM YOUNG FOR JESUS CHRIST – FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERY ONE AND EVERY THING

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these..." – Mat. 19:14 (NIV)

My son Sakthi Stephen received Jesus at the right age of 16 years. From childhood I had watched him and I was really worried about him for he was highly sensitive, touchy, emotional and explosive. When he was 14 years old, his elder brother Karthik had scolded him for not studying well and hit him lightly to create a sense of fear and obedience to him. But it turned out to be the other way. He left the house at midnight and did not turn up the whole night. We searched for him every where in the night and rang up many

of our/his friends to trace him but in vain. Finally he was spotted next morning in a nearby area and brought home.

Adolescence and teenage is the prime age when they pick up bad habits like smoking, drinking, telling lies, getting introduced to drugs, secret pleasures, eve teasing, movies, violence etc. Bad and evil things are always attractive and youngsters in high schools and colleges easily tend to fall a prey to these vices. They need to be protected, guided, loved and cared for properly at this vulnerable age. I was really happy and felt totally relieved when Stephen received Jesus. He had grown in faith and Christ, involved himself more in church activities, took interest in having fellowship with other believers, regularly fasted, prayed and studied the Bible.

These things protected him from all the evil attractions and the temptations of Satan. Jesus Christ has totally changed all his attitudes, behaviour, temperaments and he has become very much sober, soft spoken, God fearing and even tempered. "***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom"*** - *Pro. 9:10.* His college mates had tried many times to lure him into going to movies but he had politely avoided them. He disliked seeing any serials, movies or programs on the TV. Sometimes he used to listen to the news or he would switch over to GOD channel to listen to gospel messages. As he had grown very strong in faith and in the Word of God and had received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, I have complete confidence now that no evil, however attractive can touch him.

The Psalmist also says in 119:9 ***"How can a young man keep his way pure? Only by living according to the Word of God"*** doesn't he? Ecclesiastes 12:1 also warns you ***"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them".*** Youth is an all powerful dynamite and an explosive power. If guided properly, it not only can do wonders for the establishment and development of a lovely, peaceful home, a good society and a good, progressive, forward looking developed nation but can also prove to be a very good instrument to arrest the growing terrorism, unrest and agitation among youth.

In my opinion, Bible teaching and Christianity is the only best tool

for shaping, moulding and correcting the character, behaviour and thinking of youth who will be tomorrow's generations and leaders. This must start at an early age in home and primary school itself and be made compulsory as a subject in High schools and colleges. CHRISTIANITY AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE ALONE CAN PROVIDE LOVE, TOLERANCE, PEACE, HARMONY AND HEALTHY CO-EXISTENCE IN ONE'S HOME, SOCIETY AND NATION! Hallelujah!

O' JESUS, PLEASE HELP ME – MY DAUGHTER'S CRY

"To the Lord I cry aloud and He answers from His Holy Hill" – Ps. 3:4 (NIV)

My daughter Gayathri was very attached to her elder brother and she loved him. She could not take the fate or karma theory for the sickness and the physical condition of her brother. She had totally lost all her faith in all the Hindu gods and she was not praying to any god at all. She had almost become an atheist. When I was away in the US, she used to take my wife in a two wheeler to whichever temple she wanted to go but she didn't go in. She would wait in the vehicle outside the temple till her mother returned. To that extent, she had lost faith and developed an aversion to all the gods.

Even after our return to India and after hearing my testimony of how the Lord Jesus had saved Karthi's life, she was not ready to receive Jesus. She used to say that Jesus should heal her brother completely first and make him as he was before, and then she would accept Jesus as her Lord. I did not compel her. I just kept on praying for her redemption. Her 21st birth day fell on 30th July 2001. On that day since morning she was having a feeling of premonition that something serious like an accident was going to happen that day. She just brushed aside that feeling and totally forgot about it.

She normally wore only chudidhars and pyjamas. That evening she wore a sari and went to Tambaram by a two wheeler to attend her computer class. While she was driving back after the class on the Grand Trunk Road near Kadaperi check post around 7 pm, one end of her sari was caught in the rear wheel of her vehicle.

Somehow she had applied the brake and she was in an upright position. She was not able to either drive further or get off the vehicle. When she looked back, she could see many buses, lorries and auto rickshaws coming very fast and very close behind her.

The Grand Trunk Road is a busy road and there will always be heavy traffic during the day. In the evening the traffic will be at its peak. She could have been crushed to death by the speeding heavy vehicles in no time. Many fatal accidents have happened on the GST road. On a sudden impulse even without her knowledge, she had cried out "Oh Jesus, please help me". That's all she could remember. Further, she did not know how her sari was freed from the rear wheel or how she got off the vehicle or who brought her to the platform. But she was standing with the vehicle near the platform completely shivering. It could have been a serious or even a fatal accident.

Later on I came to know that one of God's servant Bro. Yesaiah from Tambaram was on his way to Chromepet to give God's message in a church. He was passing by on a two wheeler at that time. He heard my daughter's cry for help. Immediately he abandoned his vehicle and helped my daughter. The Lord Jesus Christ heard my daughter's cry for help and immediately sent a minister to help her. As King David cried to the Lord in **Ps. 103:13** ***GAYATHRI CRIED TO THE LORD IN HER TROUBLE AND THE LORD SAVED HER FROM HER DISTRESS***. Although this incident changed her atheistic attitude and tilted the balance slightly in favour of Jesus, she did not accept Him fully and was still wavering in her mind.

I WILL COME BACK AS I GO – MY DAUGHTER'S STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO CHRISTIANITY

"You did not choose me, but I chose you" – John 15:16 (NIV).

Satan does not like anyone escaping from his net and receiving the true and only God. To achieve his ends, he fights till the end, brings in many confusions, troubles, unhappiness and sickness. Gayathri was caught in his cunning whirl wind and was being thrown in and out of faith many times. I was continuously praying for the Lord's mercy and grace to touch her. Finally the Lord touched her. I compelled her to

attend a three day young girls convention conducted by **Blessing Youth Mission** in Sitteri Hills, Tamil Nadu, (Their website is ***www.Blessing Youth Mission.org***) one of the leading Missionary Organizations in India whose founder is **Bro. R. Stanley**. He is a profound Bible Teacher, powerful revival preacher, passionate mission challenger, energetic youth mobiliser, practical trainer, prolific writer and a pleasant friend.

She was very reluctant to go but finally agreed to go due to my compulsion. She said, while going, that she would come back as she went. I sent my wife also along with her to ensure her total participation in the convention. Seven or eight sisters from our church also accompanied my wife and daughter to the camp. All those accompanied my daughter fasted and prayed for my daughter's salvation and anointing by the Holy Spirit. Despite my daughter's reluctance to attend the special prayer call at the Camp, she was compelled by my wife and others to attend it and the Holy Spirit anointed her with the sign of tongues. 1 Cor. 6:17 says, "When your spirit is united with the Spirit of God, you become an anointed one".

After realizing the power, pleasure and protection of the anointing, she now spends more time in prayer, Bible reading and has become very strong in faith. Now she keeps on talking about the Lord's love to whomever she meets because ***the Holy Spirit has given her the Love** – Rom. 5:5**oly***. She then volunteered to take baptism and GAYATHRI BECAME KEZIAH. She was only an average student and did not work hard at her studies. I was afraid, she might not pass her final semester examinations in her college. But the Lord blessed her to score very good marks in her Bachelor's degree and also showered His blessings to acquire a Master's degree in Computer Application (MCA) in first class. ***ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE** – Mk. 9:23!*

GAYATHRI, DO YOU PRAY OR CURSE? – HER COLLEAGUES' FEAR

"I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse" – Gen. 12:3 (NIV)

The Lord blessed her with a good job in a Multinational Company on a handsome salary. She was least expected to be selected

against a tough competition with more experienced and highly qualified candidates for that particular job. The officer in-charge of her branch office was a staunch Hindu and somehow did not like her and started harassing her without any valid reasons. She wanted to quit the job for this reason. I asked her if she ever represented all her problems to the Lord. She said, "No". I advised her to pray to the Lord first and then leave it to His guidance for ***"There is no sorcery against Jacob, nor any divination against Israel"*** – Num. 23:23.

She knelt down and prayed to the Lord. The next week itself the Manager was transferred to Bombay to his great shock and to the astonishment of all other staff. Every one in the office knew the true reason for the sudden transfer of the Manager and asked Gayathri, "Do you pray or curse?" They further told her, "If you have any grievances against us, please tell us instead of praying to your Jesus". The new Manager having learnt about all these things, sometimes asked her with all the reverence and humbleness to pray to Jesus for target completion for that month or quarter ending. Thus the seed of the Gospel has been sown in the minds of many in her office.

The long distance, long working hours and the lack of commutation facilities bothered her and her health. She again prayed to Jesus and He blessed her with a better job on a handsome salary. Now she is evangelizing her colleagues in the new office with the spirit of "let the world get the joy that we got and let us propagate the blessings to others"! THE LORD IS SO GOOD, MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE. JESUS NEVER LETS DOWN ANY OF HIS CHILDREN AT ANY TIME! Hallelujah!

THE LORD'S WAYS ARE PECULIAR

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" – Is. 55:8 (NIV)

The Lord heard my continuous, sincere and tearful prayers from the bottom of my heart for my wife to be saved. The miracles that happened in getting admission for my son to Zion School and the unbelievable miraculous escape of my daughter from the road accident had a

tremendous impact on my wife's faith and slowly she started to lean on Jesus. Her old faith in idols and Hindu rituals started to weaken.

In the meanwhile someone known to my wife had told her about the healing miracles happening in Chalakkudi Divine Retreat Centre in Kerala and she wanted to go there with my son. I opposed it saying that Jesus Christ is everywhere, not in Chalakkudi alone. He is omnipresent and can heal Karthi here also. But she was adamant. No amount of my convincing and reasoning could stop her from insisting. Because of this. I felt a sort of restlessness and unhappiness creeping in our family relationship. Hence, I just knelt down, prayed to the Lord and then took my wife and son to Chalakkudi.

Her one week stay in the Retreat and absence of every possible contact with outside world through the TV, news paper and other medias and continuous prayers, worship and the divine atmosphere completely changed her. Systematic and well planned syllabus for giving powerful Gospel messages and the Word of God through various Bible scholars and evangelists from 6 am to 9 pm continuously without any break for a week really transformed my wife completely. The tight schedule of continuous preaching of God's words strengthened her faith which otherwise would have been possible only by attending regularly all the Sunday services in a church for a year.

The Lord does everything in His own way which we cannot understand but we come to realize it only later. How rightly the Lord has said in the Bible that ***His ways are not ours and our thinking is not His!*** Once we totally submit and surrender all our thinking, ways and actions to His will. we need not worry about anything at all. He takes care of everything for us. ***TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD. BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS HIM (Ps. 32:8)!*** After tasting His love, you will never leave Him. If you love Him. you will not leave Him: If you leave Him, you do not love Him and cannot have peace and prosperity in life Hallelujah!

YOU WILL WITNESS MIRACLES – THE MIRACULOUS HEALING OF MY WIFE ON THE SURGERY TABLE

"He has made everything beautiful in its time" – Ecc. 3:11(NIV)

Once you come to Christ, people think that there will be no more problems, worries or sicknesses. The Lord has not said that you will not have any problems or sufferings in life. Trials and tribulations will be there for us but He had overcome them all. He will be with us in all our sufferings and He will never forsake us. The Lord does not cause sufferings or problems to any one. Only Satan does all these things in the lives of every one. But the Lord sometimes allows or permits such sufferings in the lives of His children! He allows them knowingly so that His children will seek Him more and will come still closer to Him.

Jesus loved my wife, wanted her to receive Him fully and allowed her some sickness. There was a prolapse of her uterus and she was not able to walk even a short distance. She was able to move within the house but found it difficult to walk even 200 meters outside. I took her to Dr.Vani Nursing Home in East Tambaram in South Madras. The doctor is an elderly lady with wide experience. After examining my wife, she took me to task for not bringing her earlier as her condition was very bad and that any further delay in treating her would lead to further complications. She advised immediate admission to hospital for removal of her uterus.

I was shocked. Another patient in my house? "Oh God! Father, please have mercy on me. You know my situation. My son Karthi is already handicapped and requires all my help. My daughter is in the college and my younger son has just joined Plus One. How can I look after my wife if she is also bedridden after surgery? After removal of the uterus, I was told that she should not lift anything heavy and she needed to be in bed for many months. Father, please help me. No surgery for my wife. Please heal her without surgery". I prayed with tears. But things seemed to be moving only towards surgery. Finally I had to admit her to the Nursing Home for surgery and the date for the surgery was also fixed.

Dr Chakravarthy from Chengalpattu Medical College Hospital came only for this surgery. My wife was taken to the Operation Theatre and was given anesthesia. I was praying with all my heart outside the theatre for a miraculous healing. The doctor came out after sometime. I rushed to him and asked him if the surgery was successful. He looked at me and said, "Only after doing the surgery can I say if it is successful or not. But for your wife, it is successful even without a surgery!"

I could not get him immediately. "You mean, you did not do any surgery at all. But why?" "Because it was not needed. Your wife's uterus appeared to be quite normal, in its original size and place. Hence, I did not remove it. I asked the lady doctor why she had called me for the surgery. She was also surprised. She said that she had seen it in its worst condition and not once but many times. She was not able to understand how it had become normal and was in its original place. It was really a miracle, she said. I was in tears to hear the news.

THE LORD HAD HEARD MY PRAYERS AND DID THE MIRACLE ON THE SURGERY TABLE! Jeremiah 33:6 says, ***"I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security".*** Our Lord is really a miracle working God. Those who believe in Him will never be ashamed. The Lord has further strengthened us through John 16:33 - ***"In this world, you will have troubles. But take heart; I have overcome this world".*** My wife has now understood and realized that SHE WAS NOT WORSHIPPING A DEAD GOD BUT ALMIGHTY, LIVING GOD and received Him as her Saviour! She then took baptism and SURYAPRABHA BECAME SURYA KRUPA! (Krupa in Tamil means 'Grace').

Earlier she used to scold me – You are driving away everyone who comes to our house by talking only about Jesus; that's why nowadays nobody comes to our house. But now she is talking about Jesus all the time without a break to everyone who comes to our house! She now does not spare even a cart vendor to cross our street. She stops him and tells the gospel. She has tasted the love of Jesus. Now she is not able to keep quiet without talking about Jesus to others. Hallelujah!

LOST A FEW FRIENDS AND EARNED INNUMERABLE BROTHERS & SISTERS

"And anyone who has left brothers and sisters for my sake will receive a hundred times as much" – Mt. 19:29 (NIV)

Many neighbours, friends and relatives came to see Karthi. I did not know how the news about our becoming Christians and how Karthi's life was saved miraculously by Jesus Christ had spread. Many Christian brothers and sisters from various places and many Pastors from nearby churches visited us. After hearing my testimony, they praised the Lord and then prayed to the Lord for the complete healing of Karthi. Regular loud Christian prayers and songs of joy are heard from our house. This raised the curiosity of many people to know what made us, a strong and staunch Hindu family and ardent devotees of Adhi Parasakthi follow Christianity.

A few dared to ask me directly but many talked behind my back and gossipped. "Thayappan is a hard nut to crack. He is a clever fellow. He knows how to escape such situations. Moreover his aversion to Christianity was well known and open. I don't believe the story that he has accepted Jesus just like that because of Karthi's sickness alone. He might have taken at least two lakhs rupees (equivalent to $4000) for every member of his family to convert as a Christian. I know very well about him". A few believed this gossip and a few refuted it. When I came to know about this senseless talk, I could only laugh at their mean, ridiculous, materialistic thinking. Then I told a story to every one who came to my house to see Karthi.

I had a close friend named Sakthivel known to me since childhood. I was very attached to him and was ready to do anything for him. I loved him so much that I never allowed anyone to criticize him or talk ill of him. I felt proud to be his friend. He was from a well-to-do family. I strongly believed that he also loved me and reciprocated my love and friendship. We grew up and our love and affection also grew. Even after our marriage, we were inseparable. One day my son fell sick and his condition became very serious. The doctors advised immediate admission to the ICU to have round the clock observation and treatment which would cost me heavily.

I needed money. I tried for a loan from my colleagues and a few friends. Since the amount was heavy, they hesitated. Finally I approached my thick friend Sakthivel. I knew he had enough and to spare. But he did not give despite my asking him and knowing fully well about the serious condition of my son. He came out with so many lame excuses for his inability to give me the money. I was in a fix and helpless condition. I could not believe that my close friend would refuse to give money to me especially at that critical moment. I was down cast in my spirit and was trying to swallow the bitterness of my disappointment.

At that time, the door bell rang. I opened the door and was surprised to see Alexander standing at my door step. Alexander lived about a few houses away from my house. Somehow I had developed a sort of hatred for him without any reason. I despised him for no valid reasons. I had no personal contact, enmity or altercations with him. None had told me anything bad about him. Yet I disliked him and turned my face the other side to avoid seeing his face whenever we had to cross each other on the road. My hatred and avoiding him used to be very apparent. I used to think that no Christian should be allowed to reside among us. They should be pooled together and kept separately in a colony away from all of us.

I thought they were low class people, untouchables, unfit to live among us. I had never spoken a word to Alexander so far and I was very surprised to see him standing at my door step. He greeted me and before I could say anything, he caught my hand and thrust a bundle of currencies saying, "I hear that your son is seriously ill and you need money. Please take this and give medical treatment to your son. My entire family has been praying for his healing and we will continue to pray for him. Don't worry. He will be allright. God is really great. Believe in Him. He will help you." His eyes were moist with tears and then he left abruptly even without waiting for me to thank him.

I was bewildered by his offer of help even without my asking. His compassion, nobility, and his concern for my son surprised me. It was obvious that he had no ill feelings about my behaviour all along. It was a blow to me. My unfounded hatred and all the wrong feelings

I had against him so far vanished like a mist before the sun. He stood tall in my image and I felt so small and belittled in comparison.

Now tell me who do I call a true friend? Sakthivel whom I had thought was my best and only friend during the last 58 years? Or Mr. Alexander whom I had despised for no reason at all? This is only a story but this is what has really happened in my life now. The idols whom I had worshipped wholeheartedly till now in my life had not helped my son in time of my need and the sickness of my son. But Jesus Christ whom I had hated saved my son from death. After hearing what I said, there would be no answer from any of them. They would simply nod their heads in agreement. Then I would tell them the various miracles done by Jesus Christ in our life and in others' lives. I would also tell them the various testimonies told by many in the church. Their face would show their old faith shaken. The seed of faith and the Word of God are sown now in them.

Ecc. 11:1 says, ***"Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after many days."*** I pray to the Lord for their growth and harvest. To all those who come to my house, I talk only about Jesus and His abundant love and nothing else. I could not think or talk of anything other than Jesus. I am full of Jesus, filled to the brim by His love and grace. Due to this, a few of my old friends avoid coming to my house. I lost many of my old friends but earned many new friends who are more concerned about me and my family. They love us more than my blood brothers and sisters.

NOT BY OUR SKILL BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN

"It does not therefore depend on man's desires or effort, but on God's mercy" - Rom. 9:16 (NIV)

Wise men learn from others' mistakes, mediocre ones learn from their own mistakes. Fools never learn anything either from other's mistakes or from their own. All this is head knowledge. Bible says clearly that man's ideas are futile and without the Lord you can do nothing (John 15:5). But after coming to Jesus, we should depend only on Jesus and make all our requests for our requirements

only to Him. He can guide us properly, protect us and take care of all our needs.

He alone can solve all our problems, heal all our sicknesses, console us more than a mother could do and comfort us in times of distress. He can lead us victoriously in all our paths. He loves us more than anybody else in this world and He is ready to do anything for us. HE HAS ALREADY DONE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE OF GIVING HIS LIFE FOR US WHICH NEITHER ANY OF THE SO CALLED GODS NOR ANY GODMEN HAVE DONE SO FAR NOR CAN THEY THINK OF DOING SUCH A SUPREME SACRIFICE.

Jesus wants to be with us all the time and wants to be associated with us in all our activities. But we only keep Him at a distance and seek Him for a little while at the time appointed for prayer during which we pray for 10 to 20 minutes once or twice a day or when we face some problems in life or sickness. When Almighty God is with us all the time, His power, His grace, His blessings, His protection - every thing will be with us. No need to worry about anything as He takes care of everything.

There are ample evidences in the Bible to prove this. Not only great men like Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon and other anointed men of God of the Old Testament period but even present day great servants of God like Sadhu Sunder Singh, Sadhu Yesudas, Reinhard Bonnke, Richard Ankoma, Benny Hinn and many pastors and believers are able to do many miracles even today because of their full time association with the Lord. I can write with evidence and prove innumerable number of miracle healings and incidents that have happened or are happening in the lives of many who believe in Jesus Christ.

But as for me, even after coming to Jesus, I was depending on my own strength, efforts and intelligence for everything. There is an old saying that old habits die very hard. Karthi was to be given streptomycin injection on every alternate day. Annie, Sam Uncle's daughter-in-law who was working as a nurse volunteered to come all the way from Chromepet to give the injection. She used to come sometimes after 10 pm even on rainy days

after coming back from her shift duty in the hospital. She could not come alone from such a long distance.

Hence either her husband or Sam Uncle used to accompany her every time. It was really troublesome for them because it was not for a day or for a week, but for months together. Yet they were doing it willingly and whole heartedly as Christians without hesitation. To spare her the trouble, I tried for a nurse from a nearby place. I tried for a month through various means but I could not get one. Then one day all of a sudden it struck me that I had not prayed to the Lord for this. Immediately I knelt down and prayed to the Lord to help us get a nurse from a nearby place. The same day we got a nurse in our neighbourhood and she did the service free of cost.

Similarly when I tried with so many doctors, medical representatives and pharmacists on my own for more than a month for an alternative medicine for Paser, a TB drug given to my son in America, I could not get it. But when I prayed to the Lord, the same day itself I got the alternative medicine. If we pray to Jesus, He never fails you. HE IS THE ONLY GOD WHO HAS SAID – TEST ME AND SEE IF I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT. HE ALONE CAN MEET ALL OUR NEEDS. Test and Taste the love of Jesus. You will find that He is really a caring God. Hallelujah!

LET NOT KARTHI'S CONDITION COME TO ANY ONE

"When I think about this, I am terrified; trembling seizes my body" – Job 21:6 (NIV)

Even now if I recall the hopeless, precarious condition of Karthi when I brought him home on 29 May 2001, my whole body shivers. All of a sudden his head would sometimes collapse to one side. He would be staring at a particular place and blink. Since his spinal cord, abdomen and hip muscles had become very weak, he was not able to sit steadily in the wheel chair. If I did not tie him up with a belt with the wheel chair, he might either fall in the front or on the sides. He was not able to even hold a pen or a spoon in his fingers as they had become very stiff and bent. During the night I used to straighten the fingers in both his hands and tie them up with a splinter.

He was totally paralyzed below the hip. As he had no strength in his upper body, two people had to lift him up from bed to make him sit in the wheel chair. His leg would stretch out and stand out like a log due to the spasm he was prone to. I had to massage his muscles and slowly bend his legs to place them on the foot rest of the wheel chair. His memory was impaired to a very large extent. Hours together I used to sit by his side and narrate many incidents which had happened earlier in his/our life to enable him to revive his memory.

In his food pipe in the neck, a hole had been made to insert a pipe to his lungs (Tracheostomy) to remove the phlegm from his lungs. Due to this, his tongue had been pulled inside resulting in loss of speech. If I asked him any thing, he would try to speak but it would be unintelligible. To a person who is an Engineering Graduate and who has worked in Singapore and the US on a monthly salary of Rs.2.5 lakhs, I had to give him speech therapy patiently to speak words like A for Apple, B for Boy, Papa, Mamma, Aunt etc.

Sometimes he would try to tell me something but I would not be able to make out what he was trying to say. He would further try hard to explain but having failed to communicate or make us understand, his eyes would be wet and he would become silent looking helplessly at us. Such situations would simply break our heart and cause unbearable pain. If any food was fed in his mouth, he would not be able to chew it and he would just hold it in his mouth. When I told him to chew and swallow it, he would try many times but would not be able to move his tongue to chew the food. Finally I would take out the food from his mouth. To take a sip of water, he would take a few minutes.

He had absolutely no control over his bladder and bowel movements. All the medicines and tablets were powdered and injected through a tube which had been fixed permanently in his abdomen. Sometimes liquid food was also given through this tube. When many friends and neighbours visited us to see Karthi, he was not able to recognize them. He was just a living vegetable. We had to take care of him like a premature baby.

THE HEALING THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE BY MEDICINE IS POSSIBLE BY THE LORD'S GRACE

"I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder" – Is. 29:14 (NIV)

My son was given up by the American doctors who were supposed to be the best and Number One in medical science in the whole world. Finally they had also recommended mercy killing to my son. But the Lord strengthened him day after day to the great astonishment of every one and proved that the healing that was not possible by medicines and doctors was possible by the Lord and it was just a piece of cake for Him. The progress and development in Karthi's health condition was phenomenal and quite surprising. He regained his complete memory except the 18 surgeries done on him.

Slowly he started speaking a few words initially without any clarity and later on with clarity. Now he is able to talk clearly and is able to eat any solid food. His bladder control is improved now. His spinal cord and back muscles have gained strength so that he is able to sit in the wheel chair without the support of the belt. He is able to bend down and get up on his own. He is able to move on the floor and climb into bed. He is able to write legibly with his hand. His thinking, imagination, analytical powers and sense of humour he has miraculously regained.

The Lord blessed us and enabled us to buy a car in which we lift and place Karthi in the front seat and transfer him to the wheel chair in the church. He is able to sit through the full worship and service for 2 ½ hours and not a single Sunday service has been missed by him. He will be the first person to reach the church at 7.45 am, fifteen minutes earlier to the service and say firmly that instead of making the Lord wait for us, we should go and wait on the Lord! he is the last person to leave the church after the service after greeting every one in the church.

With caliper and walker, initially he was not able to take even one step. I had to push his foot with my foot step after step. From that stage, the Lord has blessed him to make one step at a time and

then to walk up to 10 feet, then 50, 100, 200, 300 and now up to 500 feet he is able to walk inside the house with caliper and walker. It is not at all possible by human effort but has become possible only by the grace of the Lord. The Lord's comforting assurance in 2 Cor. 12:9 "***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,*** further strengthened my son and made him proclaim, ***"with the Lord strengthening me, I can do all things".*** With the strength the Lord has provided him, Karthi is moving from strength to strength crossing all the hurdles one by one. Hallelujah!

KNOW THE SCRIPTURE, IT WILL DELIVER YOU

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" – John 8:32 (GNB)

One day Karthi casually asked me – Daddy, is there any problem with our TV? Why is the telecasting so dim? I see two or three images in the screen and it is blurring. I told him that there was absolutely no problem with our TV and everything was allright. Next day all of a sudden I heard my son's chilling cry and I rushed to see what was wrong. I saw him crying with the Bible in his hand. When I asked him what had happened, he said, he was not able to read the Bible. His vision was a blur and when he read the first line in the Bible, the third line also came to his focus thereby confusing him. The next day I took him to Sankara Nethralaya, one of the famous Eye Hospitals in Chennai.

They carried out various tests and finally gave me a report stating that all his optical nerves and colour vision were extensively damaged and there could hardly be any chance of improvement in his vision. They however suggested using some power glass. Even with spectacles, he was not able to read and his eye sight was diminishing day after day. My son with tears in his eyes, asked me – "Daddy, will I never be able to read the Bible?" His choking voice with so much of thirst to read the Bible really broke my heart. I held him close to my chest and said, "Why not my son? Ask Jesus Christ! The Bible says, ***'You know the Scripture and the Scripture will deliver you'***. "How can I know the Scripture, if I am unable to read the Bible?" he said.

"Ask the Lord to give you eye sight to read and study the Bible. Cry and pour out your heart to the Lord. He will definitely answer your prayers. He is our prayer answering God" I said. Karthi prayed with tears and great faith. Jesus heard his prayers and HIS EYE DEFECTS WERE MIRACULOUSLY HEALED AND EYE SIGHT COMPLETELY RESTORED without any medicine, therapy or spectacles!

None of my children knew Tamil to read and write as every one studied up to the higher secondary in Kendriya Vidyalaya without Tamil as one of their subjects. But the LORD TAUGHT HIM TO READ TAMIL and now he has completed reading the Bible four times in Tamil and three times in English! Hallelujah! Ask any thing in Jesus name in full faith, you will surely get it. ***The Lord who has called us is really faithful!*** Amen.

DELAY IS NOT DENIAL – IT IS ONLY TO PREPARE US

"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God" – Rom. 8:28 (NKJV)

For the Lord who rescued His people from Egypt's slavery, for Almighty God who slashed the red sea and the Jordan river and made the way across the sea for His people to cross, for the Omnipotent Lord who created ways in the jungle and rivers in the desert, it would hardly take a fraction of a second or only one word to heal and give complete deliverance to my son Karthi from all his weaknesses and disability. It is not at all a big thing for the Lord. In fact it is the easiest and effortless thing for Him to heal him completely.

But had He done that and blessed Karthi to get up and walk either in the US or immediately after our arrival in India, I am sure, we also would have walked away from Him after telling a simple 'Thanks' to Him and would have gone back to idolatry and to our old style of living and by now forgotten the Lord also. The intention of the Lord is different. While the Lord allowed the improvements in Karthi's condition step by step, He also strengthened us in Christ in faith, in knowing Him and understanding Him. We enjoyed His abundant love, learnt His teachings and taught us the way He wants

us to live. He made the total change in all our attitudes, character, outlook and preferences in life and to imbibe the qualities of Christ in all our walks of life.

Now we have clearly understood that the delay in healing Karthi is not a denial. It is only to prepare us, strengthen us and to make us a fruit yielding tree and be a mighty living witness to His glory. The Lord knows what to do, when to do, how to do and how much to do for His children who are totally dependent on Him. Jesus Christ is a God who can never forsake His children. Those who are dependent on Him shall never be ashamed at any time. He is a caring God who goes around healing the sick, taking away the sufferings of His people and giving succor to the needy ones.

Everything happens only according to His will. Nothing happens in this universe without His knowledge for He is omniscient. If it is His Will to heal Karthi completely, we will praise Him. Even if He does not heal him, then also we will praise Him. Jesus Christ alone will be our God and continue to be our Redeemer. His love and grace is more than sufficient for us!

Sometimes the enemy would bring a sort of mental depression. At that time the Lord would boost our confidence and comfort us either through a dream to Karthi or to his mother or to one of the believers in the church or through a word or a prophecy through someone. Not once but many times, the Lord has consoled and comforted Karthi and us. He is really a comforting God and comforts us more than a mother comforts her child! ***JESUS CHRIST IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE (Is. 9:6).*** Taste and see His love, peace and presence. Only then can one understand. Hallelujah!

THANKS TO JESUS FOR ALLOWING THIS SICKNESS – KARTHI'S JOY IN HIS CRY

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" – II Cor. 4:17(NIV)

My son Karthi is still in the wheel chair. But we have unshakable faith in Jesus Christ. In His own right time and at suitable moment, He will

surely heal Karthi. He will make him as he was earlier and make him a mighty living witness to give his testimony and to glorify and magnify the unparalleled and supreme name of the Lord throughout the world. I often recollect with shivering, the condition of Karthi before our coming to Christ; his hopeless, precarious, pitiable, pathetic, failing condition of having gone to the portals of death.

Due to the Lord's unlimited grace and mercy, day after day he regained his lost sense of faculties, wisdom, strength and sense of humour. Having come a long way crossing all the hurdles, he says now, "Daddy, let us all thank the Lord for allowing this disease and sickness to come upon me. But for this we would not have turned to Him and we would not be enjoying His unceasing, limitless love, kindness, mercy, grace and blessings! Now, we are the chosen, blessed and the happiest family in the Lord! Let any amount of torment, turmoil or sickness come. Under all the most appalling conditions, we are able to have peace, joy and the comforting and encompassing embrace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Has He not taken away all our sicknesses, burden, worries, pain and nailed them on the cross of Calvary and eased our mind? Is it not the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ? HE ALONE AND NONE ELSE can reflect such a motherly kindness to worst sinners like us!" When Karthi tells me all these things emotionally and eyes filled with tears, I can only embrace and hold him tightly to me while my heart silently thanks Jesus for everything He has done for us.

FROM UTTER DARKNESS TO WONDERFUL LIGHT

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord" – Eph. 5:8(NIV)

Hindu Vedas and Scriptures also mention sins, its impact on the mind, life, about hell and heaven and one's rebirth according to the good and evil deeds done by any one in this birth. Yet people do and continue to do all sorts of evil things and commit various sins without any fear or conscience. Sometimes they even bribe the Hindu gods with various offerings and pujas and continue to commit sins feeling satisfied and contented that their sins will be forgiven by the gods who are satisfied with the offerings

given to them. Many are under the impression that penance, offerings or special pujas or doing good deeds will erase the imprints of all our sins. Once I also believed that way.

When I was serving the Indian Air Force, I was once selected to be one of the organizing committee members of Tambola, one of the gambling pastimes usually played in all the Military establishments. Very soon I smelt something wrong and on a close vigil and watch, I could find out the organizers swindling heavy amount through misappropriation and fraudulent means. I pointed out the fraud and told them that I would report the matter to the Authorities. Initially they refused to admit it but when I confronted them with the modus operandi they adopted to set aside a large portion of the profit for themselves, they admitted but came forward to give me a portion of the loot every week to silence me. I could not help but to fall a prey to that tempting and attractive offer.

In order to silence my guilty conscience and to seek god's protection from getting myself caught in the crime, I asked my wife to prepare vada maala (a garland of vada) made out of 108 vada every month as an offering for Aanjaneya (a monkey disciple of Lord Rama) and thus made the god also a partner to my wrong doings and sinful deeds. In addition to this, on every Monday evening I used to observe fasting and do special pujas to Lord Murugan after chanting 'skanda sasti kavasam' mantras as a remedial measure to offset the ill effects of my sinful deeds.

I also kept away a portion of the bribe amount for going to various holy rivers to have a holy dip to wash off all the sins and to go to many temples to give offerings to various gods. My devotion and faithfulness to these gods did not deter me from doing wrong things or sinful acts. Instead, they only served as a remedial measure for all the sins already done and encouraged me to commit further sins. I have seen many people who make god also a partner in their wrong deeds by making substantial offerings to them from the bribe amount they receive.

Till I was 58 years of age, I had been a god fearing person, read Hindu Vedas and scriptures, sincerely followed all the rituals of going to the

temples, chanting mantras, having a holy dip in rivers, giving alms and free food to the poor. Yet I had been committing all sorts of sin knowingly and I had absolutely no fear to do any wrong things. I really shiver now to think of all my past deeds full of sins. Name any sin, it was there in me. Ego, pride, envy, finding fault with others, selfishness, vindictiveness, hurting others' feelings, telling lies, earnings through illegal and unfair means, having all sorts of pervert and filthy feelings, alcoholism, smoking, tobacco chewing and many more countless sins.

All these sins existed in me while I was going to temples regularly, worshipping the gods daily, chanting all the holy mantras after bath, wearing red cloth, tilak and holy ashes on the forehead and observing all the rituals. These things brought only outward holiness to me: some sort of religiosity. My soul and heart was filled with guilt and filth. But now after coming to Christ, I could feel, understand, realize and repent of all my sinful deeds, thoughts, attitudes and habits. Now I have a fearful faithfulness, a real fear to commit any sin or even to think of it. I am shivering now. BEFORE COMING TO CHRIST, I HAD DEVOTION. NOW I AM HAVING A FEARFUL DEVOTION. Because now I am worshiping the Most High and Holy God. Unless I am holy in all my dealings, in body and spirit, I cannot be His child.

The Word of God says in Rom. 14:12 ***"Each of us shall give account of himself to God"*** and ***"The God will render to each one according to his deeds (Rom. 2:6, Ps. 62:12, Pro. 24:12).*** I now have a real inner holiness, godliness and sanctification. I feel now that my body, with my spirit, heart and soul, is the temple of the living God and I must keep them holy and pure at all times. Apostle Paul says in 1 Cor. 6:19 " ***your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost who is in you whom you have from God and you are not your own".*** Now the Lord has filled my life with holiness, peace, humility, sincerity, selfless love for others, compassion for the sick, the weak and the downtrodden, helping tendencies and with a mind to pray for others. CHRIST HAS MADE ME HOLY! Hallelujah!

HAVE YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR CHURCH SEEN HEAVEN? I WANT TO EXPERIENCE HEAVEN ON EARTH

"The seven angels showed me the great city, Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God" – Rev. 21:9-10 (NKJV)

Pastor Jacob George and his church members once told me that this earthly life would last only for a short while. But the heavenly eternal life would be permanent. So one should strive and accumulate wealth for eternal heavenly life and not for this earthly life. I could not accept this. The Pastor and his church members were terribly shocked when I asked them to their face, "Have you seen Heaven? Or has any one in your church seen it? Look here, I am not interested in heaven which neither you nor any of you have seen. Whether there exists any hell or heaven or not, I am not interested. Plenty of stories regarding heaven and hell are there in Hindu scriptures. Even if it existed, I am least interested in knowing what is going to happen or where I will be going after my death.

I am in flesh and blood now. I am interested in this present earthly life. My son is struggling for his life now. Can your God heal my son? I am interested only in that. I cannot think of heaven when I am in hell here watching my son sinking every minute. I want to see heaven here, in this earthly life. They were silent for a minute Then they told me with a conviction, "Receive Jesus as your only Savior, wash your sins with His precious blood, be holy and preserve your holiness. Keep praying only to Jesus for all your needs. Wait for Him. You will experience heaven in this earthly life itself." They prayed for me and went off.

After coming to Christ and becoming strong in Him, I could understand the difference between the stinking filthy life, ugliness, uncleanness and the burden of the sinful life and the fragrance, cleanliness, beauty and importance of purity, holiness and sanctity in life. I could realize and enjoy the real joy of being holy in heart and soul. I could taste the glorious joy of heaven after accepting of Jesus Christ as my saviour. I decided to live a holy life hereafter like Jesus Christ. Having tasted the purity of being holy, now I cannot do any sin even if any one gives me millions and millions of dollars. I will not touch them even in my mind.

The greatest, biggest and the most wonderful grace and blessings that Christ has given me is that HE HAS MADE ME HOLY! Jesus is holy. He lived a holy life and showed me the way for a holy life. Not only to me, but to every one who comes to Him. He transforms our lives to become like HIM. In that holiness, I am able to experience the sweetness, beauty, peace, joy, tranquillity, grandeur and the bliss of heaven in this earthly life itself. HEAVEN ON EARTH! Thank You Lord, thank You my Father, I love You. I submit to You and fully surrender myself to You. I shall be faithful to You at all times for making me holy and blessing me with the heavenly abode in this earthly life.

YOU CAN GET RICE FROM A RICE SHOP; NOT FROM A GARMENT SHOP

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" – Mt. 11:28 (NIV)

In the church to which we have been going and in the innumerable churches I have gone for sharing my testimony and for giving God's message, except for about 10% who are Christians by birth or for generations, others are only Hindu converts including many orthodox Brahmins and a few Muslims. They have suffered in life, faced innumerable problems, sicknesses and had no peace of mind in life. They are not able to find any solutions by going to various temples and worshipping many gods. Finally they come to Jesus Christ through someone. Having seen that He is the only true God, they had the COURAGE to abandon their old faith and religion and to receive Jesus as their Saviour.

Yes, one requires enormous COURAGE to believe and come to Jesus Christ. Many of my Hindu friends who are frustrated and lost all hope of finding any solution to their ever-increasing problems in family life, professional or social life, used to request me to pray for their problems, sickness or debt etc. after hearing the innumerable miracles and healings done by Jesus Christ. They know very well that Jesus can solve their problems, heal their sickness, give them peace and supply all their needs. Yet they HESITATE to come to Jesus fearing what their close relatives, neighbours or the society may talk about them.

The Society and the people whom they fear cannot or are not going to help them in any way or solve any of their problems. But yet they HESITATE AND FEAR TO ACCEPT JESUS. Those who are BOLD ENOUGH to ignore the 'no-need-to-bother' relations and come to Jesus are blessed by the Lord. They get the solution, peace, happiness and all the blessings which they had not got so far or cannot get anywhere else. Such types of bold people who had thrown away their hesitation and come to Jesus Christ only are found in all the churches.

Now they are happy for themselves and they have the thirst and sincere longing for their relatives and neighbours also to get the same peace and joy. This is the real intention of every Christian who preaches Christ to others. Absolutely there is nothing else and no other intention at all. No church is giving any money or gift for converting any Hindu to Christianity. And it is not a conversion or change of religion. It is only the change of mind and heart from sin and sinful life.

In Matthew Chapter 8 we come across an incident. —Jesus Christ came down from a mountain. Large crowds followed Him. At that time, a man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, ***"Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean"***. Jesus saw his faith and He reached out His hand and touched him. ***"I am willing, be clean"*** Jesus said and immediately he was healed of his leprosy. If you look at outwardly, it may look like a person suffering from leprosy got healed immediately on coming to Jesus Christ or it was another healing miracle done by the Lord. But it is not so. Do you know how much risk the leper had taken before coming to Jesus? How much courage and boldness he had built up in his mind to make the final decision of going to Jesus and the driving force of faith behind it?

Only after much hesitation, analyzing the situation, debating the pros and cons, and after hours of deliberation and dogged determination, he might have gathered enough BOLDNESS AND COURAGE to go to Jesus Christ. Because in those days it was believed that a person was affected with leprosy as a result of his sins and he was considered a curse and an outcast in the family,

among relatives and in the society. Lepers were condemned to live in an isolated place outside the township or in a fortress. They were not permitted to come inside the town.

If anyone was found coming inside the town, in accordance with the law prevalent in those days, they could be stoned to death. If he was called by the priest for any reason, he had to cover his face and body fully with a cloth and had to go shouting "I am a sinner, sinner..." all through the way without touching anyone. Now think of the impediments he had, to come to Jesus Christ. How many obstacles, hurdles, forbidding laws, opposition and the social stigma, the poor leper had to think of before coming to Jesus Christ. But when the leper finally had the COURAGE to come to Jesus against all odds, he received his miraculous healing.

Whoever wants the blessings of Jesus, should first throw away their HESITATION AND TAKE A BOLD STEP TO COME TO HIM WITH GREAT FAITH. When they come with such faith and boldness, they are rewarded and blessed. The Lord does unimaginable miracles and delivers them from the shackles of the demon, incurable diseases, debt and bondage. While giving their testimony in the church, when they mention the miracles that have happened in their lives, one cannot but be amazed and praise the Lord. At that time, not only we, every one exalts the Lord and thanks Him for what He has done to His faithful followers and believers.

IF YOU WANT RICE, YOU MUST GO TO A RICE SHOP AND NOT TO A GARMENT SHOP! If you go to a garment shop and ask for rice, can you get it? Similarly, if you seek the grace and blessings of the Lord, you should go to the place where it is available. If you go to a place where it is not available, how can your problems and difficulties come to an end?

THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS CHRIST CAN DO

"Jesus did many things as well..." - John 21:25 (NIV).

If I write about the miracles that Jesus Christ has been doing in the lives of those who put their faith and trust in Him, it will become

another voluminous book. I quote here only a few as a sample for the information and enlightenment of those who do not know Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ can do unimaginable miracles beyond our understanding and thinking limits. He never lets down any one who comes to Him with faith.

MY LIFE AND DEATH IS IN YOUR HANDS, MY LORD!

"Our God is a God who saves, from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death" – Ps. 68:20 (NIV)

All of a sudden one day Brother Natarajan, one of the believers attending our church could not speak or swallow any food. He was not able to breathe properly. His right eye was pulled in and his sight was struck in one direction. After a thorough investigation, the doctors said, "His food pipe is seriously damaged due to heavy smoking and some of his brain functions are also affected due to some neuro problems. There is every possibility that he might be paralyzed one side very soon. Pray to your God for his life and survival".

Mrs Pushpa Natarajan who had accepted Jesus only very recently, knelt before the Lord and prayed with tears. "Father, I believe You alone, please help me. I plead with You in Jesus name" and gave a few drops of water to her husband. But the water did not go in and it came out. When she tried again to pour some more water, the nurse stopped her and warned her that it might choke him to death. But still in full faith, she prayed again and said, "Oh Lord, my life and death is in your hands" and poured a few drops of water for the second time. That also spilled through the corner of his mouth. Pushpa did not give up. Again she prayed and poured one sip of water for the third time saying, "Victory in the blood of Jesus". Miraculously the water started to go slowly through his food pipe.

On seeing it, the nurse ran and brought the doctor who was also astonished. He checked the pulse and said that only the Lord had saved him. Pushpa was weeping in gratitude and folded her hands towards Jesus Christ. Now Pushpa has grown very strong in faith and the Lord is speaking to her face to face and it is really amazing how the Lord is guiding her in all her activities. Although she is

basically a very reserved and nervous type, she does not hesitate to tell the gospel to anyone whom she comes across on the street. The entire family is a living testimony to the many unbelievable miracles and wonders done by the Lord.

A MARWADI BECOMES A DADDY

"Yes, May you see your children's children" – Ps. 128:65 (NIV)

Mr. Manoj Kumar who is a Marwadi has been married for 12 years but had no children at all. Husband and wife had gone to various temples and prayed to all the gods for a child but to no avail. They had seen many doctors and had taken all types of medicines. Many doctors had confirmed that there was no possibility for them to beget a child. Having lost all hopes, finally they heard through someone about Jesus Christ and came to church and prayed with tears. The Lord saw their tears and bestowed mercy on them. They were blessed with twins in the first delivery and one more twins in the second delivery. Now they are praying to Jesus not to bless them with any more children!

The Bible promises, ***"He grants the barren woman a home like a joyful mother of children" (Ps. 113:9)***. Against stiff opposition from his relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Manoj Kumar have now taken baptism and he has been named as Manoj Kumar Daniel. Is there anything too hard and impossible for the Lord?

YOU WILL NOT BORROW BUT WILL LEND TO OTHERS

"You will get the labour of your hand" – Ps. 128:2 (NIV)

Before accepting Jesus as his personal Saviour, Bro.Wilson had a debt of more than Rupees one lakh and he was being pressurized to repay the loan for which he had no means at all. He had totally lost all his peace of mind and joy and did not know what to do to pay off the debt as his business was just yielding him only a meager income sufficient only to lead a hand-to-mouth life. He had gone to many temples but his situation did not improve. It was rather deteriorating day by day. Finally a Christian neighbour told him about Jesus Christ and brought him to our church. He knelt down and prayed with tears.

The whole church congregation prayed for relieving him of the debt. The Lord heard the prayer and blessed him to prosper in his business and he repaid the loan within six months. ***Whoever believes on God will not be put to shame (Pro. 1:33). If you would believe, you would see the glory of God (John 11:40).*** Like this miracles and wonders happening in the lives of believers are not one or two, they are innumerable. You go to any church, you will hear various testimonies of miracles like finding a suitable match for their daughter for marriage which had been long pending, safe delivery of child after their doctors had predicted a complicated delivery through surgery, miracle healing of cancer, unbelievable escape from an accident which could have been fatal, peaceful solution to a long standing family dispute.

One can hear hundreds of testimonies about how their financial needs for their children's education and college studies had been miraculously met by the Lord, a total deliverance from evil spirits and witchcrafts. On hearing such heart breaking real testimonies which a believer will be telling the congregation in the church with tears rolling down his/her cheek, the whole crowd will hail the Lord with tears for the love and affection with which the Lord has met all the needs of His children.

JESUS CHRIST IS NOT A STATUE OR A GOD MADE OF SOME METALS NOT TO HEAR THE SOUL STIRRING PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN BUT HE IS A LIVING, LOVING AND CARING GOD. He is the Creator of this whole universe and NOT A GOD CREATED BY MEN. Hallelujah!

TRUST IN THE LORD. HE CAN LIFT YOU UP TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

"He who trusts in the Lord will be prospered" – Pro. 28:25 (NIV)

Twenty-nine year old Sangeeta Jain was born and raised in the United States of America. Born into a Jain family, Sangeeta did not know the Lord until 1990, when her entire family accepted Jesus Christ. Before the family's conversion, on June 14, 1986, Sangeeta and her family

met with a devastating car accident that left Sangeeta confined to a wheelchair. At the age of ten, Sangeeta had to relearn how to live her life, from putting on her socks, to moving about using a wheelchair. At the same time, she learned how to set goals and strive to achieve them. She learned not to give up. She learned how to trust in God.

Her faith and trust was strengthened multifold after reading the Word of God in Pro. 29:25, ***"Whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe" and in Psalm 29 :25, "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him"***. Just months after the accident, Sangeeta began the sixth grade. Determined not to let her disability hinder her, she became Student Body President, won various awards, and took part in the school play, all the while remaining at the top of her class. Since then, she has continued to concentrate on what she can do rather than on what she can't do, trusting that God will make all things possible.

Sangeeta graduated from a top engineering college in the US with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. She also went on to get a Jury's doctorate degree in Law. Out of college she worked as an adviser to two High Court Judges. She is currently working as an associate in the Premier Law firm in the Pacific Northwest region of the US.

Among her many accomplishments and the many blessings of God in her life who promised ***"With everlasting kindness, I will have mercy on you (Is. 54:8)***, the Lord blessed Sangeeta to win the title of Miss Teen of Washington in 1993, becoming the first person in the world in a wheel chair to win a pageant against other girls who were normal. She was also third runner up in the Miss Teen of America Pageant (much like the Miss India competition, but for teenagers).

Over the years Sangeeta had the privilege of sharing her testimony and about the many blessings of God in her life with school children, politicians, churches, hospitals, youth groups and community groups both in India and the United States. At these meetings God has powerfully moved, saving the lost, healing the sick, delivering the oppressed and filling His people with the baptism and power

of the Holy Spirit. Through all of her experiences Sangeeta has not only learned about God, America, Engineering and the Law, but she has learned many lessons for life as well, the most important of which was learning to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust in the Lord, you can win the world! Just as the Psalmist exalted the Lord who has said, ***"I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me" (Ps. 50:15),*** Sangeetha is now glorifying the Lord.

JESUS FROM THE MOUTH OF DUMB NOORJEHAN

"I am the Lord who makes all things" – Is. 44:24 (NIV)

On 04-04-2004 I happened to switch on the GOD Channel in my TV. New Leaders' conference organized by New Frontiers in London was being telecast live. I saw an Indian speaking Queen's Indian English confidently, fluently, and eloquently and with authority which was from above. Mr. Ram Babu, a young Hindu convert (a Brahmin from Bellary, Karnataka) was speaking. It was an International conference being attended by hundreds of delegates from various countries. When Mr. Ram Babu was speaking about himself, he said, "I am an orthodox Indian Brahmin. Having learnt Hindu Vedas, Upanishads and philosophy since childhood, I had an unshakable faith in and great esteem for Hindu religion, I had also developed an aversion to Christianity without any solid reasons and I was totally against it. I was a student pursuing a course leading to a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

One day when I was going to college, I passed by a church where I saw a big crowd listening reverently to the sermon of an old Pastor. A sort of hatred-filled uneasy feeling erupted in my stomach on seeing that crowd. I picked up two small pebbles and threw them at the gathering. Two persons hit by them just turned to see the sender and then continued to listen to the sermon. While I was about to leave, I heard the old Pastor informing the crowd that there would be a special healing crusade the next day and asked them to bring sick people for healing. That irritated me and a crooked, wicked idea occurred to me. Why not attend the crusade the next day and create some fracas? I expressed this idea to a Muslim friend of mine whose 13-year old sister was dumb.

I instigated him to go with me to that meeting to see if that old man was able to heal his sister. My friend advised me not to play with the sentiments and religious feelings of others. Immediately I told him not to take things seriously since it was just meant to have some real fun. That's all. After a bit of persuasion, he agreed to bring his sister to the crusade the next day.

We went to the crusade and when the old man called the sick to come forward for prayer, I pushed Noorjehan to the front and I stood behind her. We did not tell the Pastor anything about her disability. When it was our turn, the Pastor laid his hand on Noorjehan's head, closed his eyes and started praying. I could see her shiver on his touch. After a second, he opened his eyes and looked at both of us and smiled. Then he gave the cordless mike to Noorjehan and asked her to shout out '**Hallelujah**'. Without any hesitation, she took the mike from him and shouted '**Hallelujah**'! The Lord who promised ***"I will take sickness away from the midst of you (Ex. 23:25)"*** blessed her and she spoke. It was the first time she had ever spoken in her life. I was dumbfounded on watching her speak for the first time and it was a blow to my arrogance and disbelief.

I knelt down immediately, bewildered on seeing the miracle happening right before my own eyes. The Pastor laid his hand on my head and prayed. I could feel a vibration pass through my body. It was a pleasant experience which I had never enjoyed in my life till that moment. There, I received Jesus as my personal Savior.

HE, WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR!

"Any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him and dine with him; and he, with Me" – Rev. 3:20 (NIV)

I had an unquenchable thirst and longing to know more about this wonderful, awesome Jesus Christ and I read the Bible day and night. As I read more and more, I could understand the holiness, the greatness and importance of the Bible. I learned who the real God is and how one should live to get His approval. I could feel that the Bible is not like any other religious book or epic or an

imaginary story. It is not written by the wisdom of any man but written completely by the prompting and anointing of the Holy Spirit. No man or any self-proclaimed god-men had ever lived such a holy life as Jesus Christ lived on the earth. He is unmatched, unparalleled and an example ever lived in human flesh for every one to follow. ***He is the only way, truth and life*** for any one to go to Heaven. He alone can pardon and give remission for all our sins and give eternal life.

I joined a Bible College against the stiff opposition of my parents. After completion, I did not venture out for any job but as if going for a job, I went inside my room at 9 am every day, locked it up from inside and opened it only at 5 pm. I spent the entire time in Bible reading, meditation, prayer and fasting. Not for one month or a year but for three years continuously. I waited for the Lord's calling. There was a volcano in me. It was boiling inside me and was bursting out. I was thinking how that old pastor could do the miracle and heal the sick in the name of Jesus Christ. His disciples also performed miracles in His name. Why not I? I must also get that power from the Father to heal the sick and I wanted to glorify the name of the Lord through many miracles. I must get it at any cost.

I kept on praying for it unceasingly, with full faith and unshakable confidence, for three years without giving up. The Lord saw my steadfastness and heard my earnest and constant prayers from the bottom of my heart and blessed me with that power! Now the Lord is using me as a tool to glorify His name through many healings and miracles. Can any one prove that Jesus Christ is not alive today? I challenge! I can prove that He is alive today. I can come and prove it anywhere in the world and in any other religious conference in any corner of the world.

I am ready to come alone and prove that Jesus is alive today and in His name, the miracles will happen". He was roaring like a lion in that conference being telecast live on GOD Channel. As Moses spoke without any fear and did innumerable miracles in the court room of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Jesus Christ is performing many miracles through Pastor Rám Babu throughout the world today.

Not only through Ram Babu, but in various churches through His anointed Ministers, the Lord is doing so many unbelievable miracles in the lives of those who trust in Him. Such unimaginable healings and miracles are happening in our church also. Many are relieved of their sicknesses, problems, debt and clutches of Satan. Jesus Christ is calling every one with love and compassion irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. Jesus says, ***"Ye who are burdened, come to me, I shall give you rest. Your sorrow will turn into happiness and blessing".*** He is promising. Jesus not only loves the holy and puritans but loves sinners, evil doers and all those who are neglected, abandoned as incorrigible by the society. Jesus gives life and succor to all those who have been despised and hated by others. Like a beloved mother who would care even for her prodigal child, Jesus will love, mend, mould and correct the spoilt children and give them once again the peace and happiness they have lost or which they could not get from this world.

JESUS CHRIST IN THE HOLY KORAN - MUSLIMS BEING SAVED

"He is the image of the invisible God ..all things were created by Him and for Him" – Col. 1:15-16 (NIV)

Jesus Christ, in the Koran, the holy book of the Muslims? Initially I was also surprised. Information about Jesus can be found not only in the Holy Koran but also in the ancient Sama Veda of the Hindu Religion. I will write about this in detail later. Although there is very little information about Jesus in the Koran yet, after reading and meditating on this wee bit of information about Jesus available in the Koran, a Muslim lady named Gulshan Fatima who belonged to the Shia sect of Pakistan got saved. She is not the only one. Many aristocratic and honourable people like Bilquis Sheik have been saved. They are living testimonies for the glory of Jesus Christ and they continually minister to the Lord.

Despite the fact that Islamic laws and regulations are very stringent all over the world, even today in many Islamic nations and in India, particularly in South India, many Muslim brothers and sisters are being cleansed by the Blood of Jesus and they experience

salvation. I would like to mention just a few of them here. Ismail belonging to Anandapur district of Andhra Pradesh, Ghulam Kadir Qureshi of Srinagar, Sultan Mohamedpal of Kabul in Afghanistan, Mukhtar Hussein, his wife and son from Meerut, Ammanullah Habees of Afghanistan, Esther Khan of St.Thomas Mount, Abdul Abraham of Vallavilai town of Kanniyakumari district, Rahmathunia and Abdul Halam Azad of Karaikudi and many others like them have come to know of the glories of the Lord Jesus Christ and have received Him as their Saviour. You may get a copy of the book **"Kaaba to Calvary"** written by **P.A. Hudson Taylor** and read it to find out how and in what circumstances these people have been saved.

JESUS SPOKE IN A GENTLE VOICE TO GULSHAN FATHIMA

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" – Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

Gulshan Fathima was born in Pakistan into a rich, aristocratic and zealous Pakistani family, who were the descendants of Ali, the son-in-law of Prophet Mohammed. When she was six months old, a severe fever afflicted her, as a result, her left leg did not grow and became shriveled and her left hand became paralyzed. None of the physicians could cure her. For 18 years she was bed ridden. She followed all the five chief laws of the Mohammedan religion faithfully, sincerely and diligently. She used to read the Holy Koran daily not only in Arabic but also in Urdu and used to perform the entire Ragat worship. In 1966 she accompanied her father on Hajj pilgrimage to visit the holy places of Mecca and Medina.

In 1968 her father who was a Syed, Shah and the religious head called Peer, suddenly died. Deeply anguished and heartbroken, Gulshan searched for ways to commit suicide and to end her life. Suddenly she heard a soft and gentle voice, **"I will not let you die. I will save you alive."** Weeping, she replied, "I am an invalid. My father has also left me, why should I live?" Again that gentle voice spoke clearly, **"Who has given sight to the blind? Who has healed the sick? Who has healed the leper? Who has raised the dead? I am that Jesus. It is said of me in the Koran. Read Sura Mariam"** She took the Koran and read that portion of scripture. The angel of

God said to Mariam, **"You will rejoice in this message which Allah sends. His name is Christ. He is Jesus, the son of Mary. He is great not only in this world but also in the world to come. The grace of Allah will be with him."** In Sura Imran it says, **"By the grace of Allah I will give sight to the blind. I will heal the leper. I will bring the dead to life again. I will come again."** Seeing these words written in Holy Koran, she began to have a new hope. At the same time she wondered why the Koran mentions only very little about this powerful Jesus. She desired to find out more about Him.

PRAYER OF FAITH TO JESUS CHRIST AFTER THE NAMAZ

"If you believe, you will see the glory of God" – John 11:40 (NIV)

Although only very little information about Jesus is mentioned in the Koran, Gulshan fully believed that all that had been written is true and that He's alive even today, He does miracles and that He is able to heal her also. So daily after she finished her Muslim prayers, she prayed with a new hope saying, "Jesus, You have done many miracles. You are alive even today. I believe in You. Please heal me also." She continued to pray for 3 years. Without losing hope, with persistence she used to plead and pray all night. One day early morning at 3 o'clock according to her usual practice she wept and prayed with a broken spirit.

Suddenly a bright light filled her locked room, a brightness that cannot be expressed in words. In the midst of the light that was brighter than daylight Jesus Christ appeared with his 12 disciples. Looking at the frightened and trembling Gulshan, He called lovingly, "Don't be afraid. I am Jesus. Rise up and come to me." A new life giving power entered the shrunken leg and hand of Gulshan Fatima who had been crippled and bed ridden for the last 18 years. Even as she let her shrunken leg swing from the cot, the power of resurrection touched her leg and it grew and touched the floor. In her paralyzed hand she could feel the new life throbbing. Slowly, placing her feet on the floor she stood up and took a few steps nervously.

Then she ran to Jesus and fell at His feet. In the sweetness of the light, which was brighter than the light of the noonday sun and the moon combined together, she began to learn many blessed truths she had not known until then. Jesus placed his hands on her head. The light that came through his nail-pierced hands changed the colour of her green dress to white. "I am Jesus. I am Emmanuel. I am the Way, the Truth and The Life. You must be my witness from today. Tell my people all that you have seen with your eyes. My people are your people. Preserve the robe of light, which you have received today, and your body also without any stain. I will be with you wherever you go."

After saying this Jesus taught her to pray, the same words as given in the Bible, Mathew Chapter 6:9-13, "Our Father in Heaven!" the prayer addressing Almighty God in heaven with authority as "Father". After teaching her this prayer, He disappeared. Gulshan was unable to understand whether this incident was a dream or reality. She bent down and looked at her feet. Her shrunken left leg had grown and she was able to stand now. Similarly, her left hand also has been healed. Then it's true that Jesus had come. "Lord! How great is Your mercy. You have heard my humble prayer and healed me, whom the entire medical world had given up. Not only that, You have also given me a divine vision of Your glory. How blessed I am!" She jumped around with great joy. She sang and danced. Hearing about her healing, her family members, all her relatives and family friends visited her. She told them over and over again, "Jesus heard my prayer, gave me a divine vision and healed me!"

REFUSAL TO DENY JESUS CHRIST WILL BE REWARDED WITH DEATH

"Whoever loses his life for me (Jesus Christ) will find it" – Mat. 16:25 (NIV)

Although they were all filled with great joy and wonder seeing Gulshan totally healed, yet they hated the fact that Gulshan was telling everyone that Jesus had healed her. They said, "Mohammed Nabi (Prophet) and Jesus are one and the same. So you must say that Nabi has healed you." She firmly refuted this saying, "How

can I say that? Isn't it a lie? He who appeared to me, said by his own mouth, "I am Jesus". So I will not change my words." She desired to have the Holy Bible and wondered from whom she could obtain it. When she prayed about this earnestly, the Lord again appeared to her in a vision and showed her a servant of God who lived 10 miles to the south and told her that she would get the Bible from him.

As seen in her vision, she could locate a Christian missionary couple and through them she got a Holy Bible and studied it day and night. Seeing Gulshan's deep devotion to Jesus, her two brothers, uncle and close relatives joined together and told her, "You are a Muslim and according to us praising another God Jesus is betrayal of Islam and the family honour. You should immediately stop this and right now deny Jesus. If you refuse, we will not even hesitate to kill you. This is also permitted by Islam." Telling this they placed a revolver against her forehead. Like vultures waiting to pounce on their prey, all of them stared fiercely at her.

Yet Gulshan did not flinch. She closed her eyes for a moment and prayed to Jesus. She could feel the presence of the Lord in her. Then she bravely looked at them and said, "Can you or anyone say that we will never die? It is definite that all who are born will die one day or the other. I am willing to die for Jesus, the one who has healed me. But I can assure you of one thing. No matter whatever may be the circumstance, I will never act in any manner to bring dishonour or shame to the family." Seeing the manner and the courage with which she spoke, they discussed among themselves and threatened her saying, "All this extensive property belongs to you. If you do not listen to us, we will see to it that you do not get even a bit of this property. Moreover, you will also be driven away from this house."

Nothing deterred her. Believing that the Immanuel who had healed her would also protect her, with great courage and fortitude she left her house. Although Gulshan was a very young woman with no knowledge of the outside world, God protected her much more than an earthly mother, enfolded her in His love, gave her refuge and is using her for His glory even today as a testimony in Pakistan

and in many other parts of the Muslim countries to redeem thousands of Muslim brothers and others from their life of sin and show them the way of salvation.

Gulshan received information that her elder sister was very serious. She prayed immediately to Jesus Christ for her sister. She believed the Lord who had healed her and millions and millions who trusted Him, would surely save her sister. But when she came home, she found to her shock that her sister had already died and all her relatives had gathered there and were performing the last rites to the dead before burial. Gulshan trusted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and prayed to Him in unshakable faith. The Lord heard her prayers and gave life to her sister who was ready to be taken for burial.

All were shocked and surprised to see the dead being raised right in front of their eyes by the prayer of Gulshan to Jesus Christ. This was the talk of the town and many including Gulshan's sister accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Gulshan Fatima became Gulshan Esther and she is today miraculously and powerfully doing the Lord's ministry by being instrumental in delivering many people from the bondage of Satan, sin and sickness. Those who would like to know more about Gulshan Esther, may read her book of testimony, 'The Torn Veil'.

The Lord is touching not only Muslims but millions of people who belong to various religions of the world including Buddhists, Jains etc. In Korea, Paul Yangi Cho who was once a follower of Buddhism has founded a church for the Christians in South korea that is considered to have the largest number of believers in the world.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST FROM SRILAKSHMI NARAYANA SWAMY TEMPLE

"You are the light of the world" – Mt. 5:14 (NIV)

Paravasthu Surya Narayana Rao is a descendant of the well-known and famous 17th century Paravasthu Koormaya Swamigal of Andhra Pradesh. From a very early age he learnt Sanskrit and Telugu languages and completed his education from Uthkalam

University. He mastered various Hindu religious and historical books like Upanishads, Veda studies, Sama Veda, Thandiya maha pirahamnam, Devi Bhagvadam, Purayutharunyago Upanishad, Manushpuruthi, Rig Veda, Sampoorna Mahabharatha, Bhagavath Gita, Vishnu Puranam and Arya Pulamai.

He was then ordained in 1965 according to the 3rd manthra in the 3rd chapter of the Yajur Veda as the chief archakar (Priest) and head of the mutt of Srilakshmi Narayanaswami temple situated in Jalandira Narayanapuram of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh. All the devotees, even elderly people fell at his feet and performed patha pooja (worship of feet) to bless them with the remission of sins. He used to wonder if he possessed the power, worthiness and holiness to bless them and wash away their sins. For all outward appearances he was in the position of a guru and worshipped by many. But inwardly he felt ashamed that he was impure without any self-control, unable to curb the desires of the flesh and involved in many sinful habits like smoking, drinking and womanizing.

He had fully committed himself to doing divine work, all through the day performing abishekam, archanas and worship to idols. He was in the exalted position of expounding the meaning, morals and virtues of the vedas, slokas and Upanishads to others. Yet he himself had committed many sins and lacked inner holiness. This being his condition how could he bless others? He was deeply anguished since, in spite of performing yagnas and saying gayathri japam, there was no change in his life, in his thoughts, desires and deeds and there was no purity or holiness in him.

JESUS CHRIST, THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR IN SAMA VEDA

"I am the Lord, and besides Me, there is no Saviour" - Isaiah 43:12 (NIV)

For seven and a half years he researched (studied) all palm leaf manuscripts and Vedas available in the temple to discover the answer to the question "Who is the one who can take away all the sins I have committed?" He learnt from the Vedas that without shedding of blood, there was no forgiveness or remission of sins.

In Sampoorna Mahabharatha it is said ***"Rathha purotchanam paava vinasam"***, meaning TO REMOVE SIN, BLOOD SHOULD BE SHED. The second part of Sama Veda, in Thandiya magapiramanam, a manthra says, ***"prajapathirthe vaepiyam, athma naam yagnam, krutvaa prayachith"***, meaning "THE RULER OF THE PEOPLE WILL DO YAGNAAND GIVE HIS OWN BODY AS A SACRIFICE OF ATONEMENT TO REMOVE THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE'.

Prajapathi means the Creator, the Lord God. That is why Vedic Scholars say that ONLY WHEN THE HOLY CREATOR GOD BECOMES A SACRIFICE CAN SALVATION BE ACHIEVED. Similarly it is said in another mantra in the Thandiya magapiramanam, ***"Sarva paapa pariharo, raktha purokshana mavasyagam, thath raktham paramathmeina, pushyathaana baliyagam"*** which means that if we need deliverance from all sins (sins that are done through ears, mouth and eyes, sinful desires which arise in the heart, sinful thoughts, sinful deeds etc.), blood must be shed according to the Vedas. He began to search all the scriptures to find out which God had shed his blood as a sacrifice to remove man's sins.

He was greatly surprised to find another mantra in the Sama Veda, ***"lihviyaa koptharam mahakyavvathinaa koriyanthi havyayaana pariyathaaseen"*** meaning THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO TAKE AN AVATAR (DIVINE BIRTH) WILL BE BORN OF A VIRGIN IN A CATTLE SHED. The Sama Veda testifies that the person who is to be born will be a divine person (avatara purusha). Who is this divine person mentioned in the Sama Veda? As he was trying to find the answer to this question, one day as he and his disciples went to buy certain puja items, he heard through the loudspeaker a song being sung by some men and women. "Aren't you the Saviour who was born of a virgin in a cattle shed, born as a man to take away sins? Isn't Your blood which was shed as a sacrifice on the cross, a propitiation for the sins of the sinner?"

On hearing this song he was overjoyed that he had found the answer to the riddle for which he had been searching for the past

7-½ years. Rejoicing he went towards the place from where the song came. There, standing before a huge crowd a pastor was preaching about Jesus. He listened to it for more than half an hour. At the end of the meeting he met the pastor. Rao asked him about all his doubts and questions in his mind. The Pastor answered all his questions and also gave him a new Bible.

He read that Bible many times for 2 ½ years and was greatly amazed. He found the answers to all his questions in the Bible and also understood clearly that there is no one else in this world but Jesus who has the authority and power to forgive the sins of mankind. He told the elders in his family, relatives and also the elders in the temple about Jesus that He is the only One who can forgive all the sins of mankind and that besides Jesus there is no one else who can give salvation. ***"Salvation is found in no-one else; for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)"***. When they heard it they all came together menacingly to hit him.

One day early in the morning during the abisheka puja in the temple instead of reciting the usual slokas he started preaching about Jesus in whom he had become rooted and who had filled his heart with light. Forgetting himself and unable to control his enthusiasm, he preached about the greatness of the Bible and about the true salvation which only Jesus can give, since Jesus is the only One who gave Himself as a living sacrifice for our sins. He preached all this through the temple microphone until 10.00 am in the morning.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE TRUE GOD – A HINDU PRIEST PROCLAIMED FROM A HINDU TEMPLE

"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind" –Jer. 32:27 (NIV)

Alas! All the people who were praying in the temple and the residents who lived in that street were shocked when they heard 'Halleluja' and the gospel through the mike in the Hindu temple. Immediately afterward it seemed as though an earthquake had occurred. All the former heads of the mutt and his own relatives started questioning him one after the other. At that time also he told them that Jesus Christ was the only real God and no one else.

These words angered the people and they beat him up, tortured him, chained his hands and left him locked in the sanctum sanctorum.

Daily they used to open the door and see if he had repented. When they saw his stubbornness, they became angrier and beat him up with rods. His ribs were fractured and his shoulder blades got dislocated. He suffered unbearable pain, hunger, thirst and faced other problems. Without relenting even a little, they beat him mercilessly, kicked him and verbally abused him. They tortured him without even giving him a drop of water to quench his thirst. In spite of all this he did not lose heart but continued to pray. Six days passed. These people tortured him both physically and mentally to the maximum extent possible. But Christ was in him.

Rao prayed with faith ***"The Lord is my Helper. I will not fear (Heb. 13:6)***. He has promised ***"Surely I will deliver you (Jere.39:18)****. The Word of God says in* **Pro. 20:22** ***"Wait for the Lord and He will save you"***. Jesus Christ heard his prayers. On the seventh day at 4 o'clock in the morning surrounded by blinding light and glory, Jesus appeared gloriously inside the locked sanctum sanctorum. Not realizing what was happening, Surya Narayana Rao asked, "Who are you?" to which Jesus replied, "You are the one who called me." Jesus showed him the vision of the Lord himself hanging on the cross since Jesus knew that this image had been imprinted on his heart.

Filled with Holy Spirit, Surya Narayana Rao cried out 'Oh Lord! Lord Jesus!' Jesus lifted him up and all the chains which were binding him broke and fell down. Still holding his hand Jesus went forward. The locked doors of the sanctum sanctorum, doors of the inner sanctuary and the outer sanctuary opened one after the other on its own. Having brought him outside the temple, Jesus looked at him and said, "Don't go to the left into the village but go towards the right". Then Jesus disappeared.

ALMIGHTY GOD WHO MAKES US STAND AS WITNESSES

"I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me" – Ps. 50:15 (NIV)

Desiring to see the situation of the village before he left the place, Surya Narayana Rao turned to the left side and went into the village.

He entered the street where he lived and went near his house. He observed 4 or 5 people sitting on the verandah and speaking. Drawing near he overheard their conversation. "Before it is dawn we should kill him and bury him. He is not going to turn from his ways. Evil man! It's a shame that such a person is born in our family! The only way we can do some good to our race and our religion is to get rid of him. Come on, let us go!" On seeing them moving forward he started running away into the darkness. However, one of those men on seeing a figure running into the darkness called out, "Hey! Who are you?"

On suspicion, they started chasing him. Mustering all his strength, he ran away from the village into the fields. Due to his weak condition he could not run fast and soon the men caught up with him and identified him. They were confused and wondered how he had managed to escape; yet in the midst of their confusion they beat him severely with rods. He fell down unconscious. Thinking he was dead they abandoned him and thought to themselves that they had got rid of him for good. However an angel woke him up, gave him fresh milk to quench his thirst. The angel directed him to go to a house seen some distance away and told him that they would apply medicines on his wounds. The angel then disappeared.

Surya Narayana Rao thought to himself that if he had obeyed Jesus and gone to the right side he would not have received all these beatings. The Lord had instructed him not to go to the left side because of the lurking danger ahead. He decided, "From now on I will never disobey the Word of the Lord". He then went towards the house seen far away. It was the house of a servant of God. Even at that time of dawn, the sound of prayer could be heard from that house. The moment he knocked, the door was opened. The minister of God and his wife welcomed him inside and said, "Come in brother. We have been praying for you and we were waiting for you."

Surya Narayana Rao was astonished. "How did you know I was coming?" They said, "The Holy Spirit had revealed to us. So we have been praying for you since last night." They welcomed him inside, washed his wounds, applied ointments, gave him food to

eat and requested him to take rest. They said, "If you remain here, your life will be in danger. We will buy you a train ticket to Cuttack in Orissa. Go there. The Holy Spirit will reveal the rest to you." They allowed him to take rest the whole day and gave him clothes and some money and put him on a train to Cuttack at night.

During the journey the ticket, money and the change of clothes were stolen from him. At Cuttack, when he got off the train without the ticket, the checking squad caught him and took him to their chief officer. The officer was a Christian. The chief officer due to some unknown reason decided to handle the case himself and told others in the squad to leave. He then asked Surya Narayana Rao where he was going. He answered, "Wherever God tells me to go, I will go." On hearing this, the officer took him to his own house and served him food and enquired about all that had happened.

He then took him to the church he attended and introduced him to the Head Pastor. Having heard his testimony about all that took place in his life, he was sent to do ministry in many north eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa and to share his testimony with people who did not know Jesus, so that they could also be led to Christ. Even today the Lord is using him mightily to deliver many thousands of people from their sinful ways and to lead them to salvation in Christ Jesus.

It would take another book to write about the goodness of the Lord and the miracles done by the Lord in his life, the many people who have been led to salvation through him and the many people who have been delivered from sickness and the bondage of Satan through his ministry. Since he put forth very strong, indisputable arguments against Hindu gods and idolatry by quoting various verses from Hindu Vedas, histories, Sanskrit slokas and mantras, many court cases were foisted on him by people with vested interest. He was arrested, tortured in jail. Yet he was not deterred. He is facing all the court cases very boldly even now.

The Lord has made him a living mighty witness to the glory of God and he is doing a very strong ministry in Hyderabad. Those of you

who would like to know more about his life, ministry and the wonderful things God has done in his life may read his Tamil book "Deiva Darisanam" available in Christian book stalls.

NO REMISSION OF SIN WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD

"Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" – *Heb. 9:22 (NIV)*

No God of any religion in this universe or the acclaimed god-incarnates, dead or living, has the power and authority to forgive and give remission for all our sins **EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST.** Jesus Christ alone has the power **by virtue of shedding His precious sinless, guiltless blood on the cross.** If any one thinks that others can also give remission for their sins, they are totally mistaken. Even Hindu scriptures admit that there can be no remission of sins without the shedding of blood. That is God's divine plan. That's why animals like buffaloes, rooster, hen, goats are being killed and sacrificed in many Hindu temples.

For the remission of sins committed by human race, a pure guiltless invaluable human blood totally devoid of any sin needed to be shed which Jesus Christ alone had shed under this sky and above this earth. He is the only God who could dare say, ***"Is there anyone who could say that I have sinned at any time? Jesus led a life without a small sin (John 8:46). No appearance of sin was found in Him. He was testified by Pilate, the Governor who enquired Him (Luke 23:4, 14, 22). He was testified as sinless by His own apostles*** (Pet. 2:22). Today can anyone tell or any so called god-incarnates or a religious head or a guru say that they have not committed even a single sin? None can dare say that. But Jesus Christ could say it boldly because He was Holy and sinless!

We, every one of us, are God's children irrespective of caste, creed and religion. CASTES AND RELIGIONS ARE MADE BY MEN AND NOT BY GOD. When God saw His own children drifting away from His blessings by indulging in all sorts of evil things, sins, worshipping idols which He despises most and were destined to suffer in hell fire, the Lord wanted to save His children from sin

and sufferings. ***God loved them so much that He gave His only begotten Son to be sacrificed on the cross in order to provide salvation for them. Jesus Christ implicitly obeyed the Father and submitted Himself silently and voluntarily for all the humiliation, torture and for the most painful and slow death on the cross (Rom. 5:8, 1 Pet. 1:10, 1 Tim. 1:15)***. **JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DIE ON THE CROSS FOR CHRISTIANS ONLY: HE DIED AND SHED HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD FOR ALL HUMAN RACE ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH IRRESPECTIVE OF CASTE, CREED, RELIGION AND NATIONALITY.**

Salvation and remission of sins is free for any one who asks for it sincerely and with full faith. You will definitely be able to feel and realize immediately that you are set free totally from the bondage and ill effects of all the sins committed so far.

NO GOD EXCEPT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR US

"Jesus Christ died for our sins" – 1 Cor. 15:3 (NIV)

Before coming to Jesus, I was of the opinion that a major or serious crime like a murder or stealing or cheating or betraying others alone would be a considered sin warranting a hell sentence. People think that they have not committed any such major, big sins. They may have committed a few small petty sins and mistakes like telling a harmless lie, not buying a ticket for a bus travel or on the electric train and trying to defend our shortcomings, weaknesses, blunders and unbecoming behaviour. These small things need not be termed as grave or serious sins and they think that these will not invite a death sentence in hell fire.

Further I was thinking that such small sins would be forgiven automatically by our gods on seeing our daily prayers after bath, chanting of mantras, flower offerings, homams (Holy fire) performed by us. Our fasting on full moon and new moon days and other auspicious days, our frequent faithful visits to various temples and the holy dips made in the holy rivers and temple tanks can wash away all our sins. Our offering of meals to Brahmins and yogis and free distribution of food to the poor and their generous alms of 50 paisa or one rupee to a leper or to a blind

beggar on the street or railway platform ought to be considered to score off our trivial mistakes like this.

In addition I also thought that the blessings received from our parents, elders, spiritual heads, gurus or the god incarnates at whose feet we fell, worshipped and did the 'paadha puja' (foot worship) would invariably mitigate all the sins we had committed. Further lighting lamps and an incense stick and murmur of a prayer will be a sufficient price for the remission of our sins. The truth is 'NO'. None of these prayers, worships or acts can set any one free from our sins. Only by paying a price through the shedding of HIS sinless blood, even Jesus Christ was able to earn for us the remission of our sin. He alone can forgive and give remission for all our sins. No other god or god incarnate has shed even a single drop of his blood for us nor has suffered for us or undergone any humiliation or met peacefully such a horrible torturous inhuman death as Jesus Christ has done for mankind.

No sacrifice of any animal or the shedding of its blood will yield us the remission of our sins. Similarly, the lemon or the white pumpkin with kumkum (turmeric red colour powder) can not substitute the Holy blood of Jesus Christ for the abolition of the sins or for setting us free from the clutches of demons or witchcraft or black magic. ***Only the name of Jesus Christ, the name above all the names*** *(Phil. 2:9)*, can set us free from all our sin, sickness, bondage, worries, problems, unhappiness, confusions, troubles and turmoils. He is the Good Shepherd and as a good shepherd takes care of his sheep, Jesus Christ will take care of any one who comes to Him. ***The good shepherd gives His life for His sheep (John 10:11)***. Test and see if what I have said is a fact or not. You will be really surprised and pleased to enjoy the everlasting peace on being washed by the Holy blood of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

WE ARE BORN IN SIN AND LIVE IN SIN

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" – Rom. 3:23 (NIV)

God's perception of the dimensions of sins is entirely different from our own. My opinion about sin was corrected only after reading

the Holy Bible. When I read the detailed enumeration of sins in God's perception in various chapters of the Bible, I began to shiver. I could not sleep. Oh God, what a fool I had been so far in not knowing all these things earlier. Further, in God's view there is nothing like a small sin or a big sin. All are considered as sins only.

I have published a book in Tamil under the title of **'The wages of sin are hell'** in which I have listed the abominable things that are considered sin by God in His eternal Word, the Judgement after our earthly life at which we have to account for all our sins and, finally, the eternal punishment of hell fire we get for our unrighteousness. How horrible will be the torture in the hell fire, I have written with a few real testimonies by some chosen men who were taken by the Lord to hell itself to show them how horrible it is. Read this book. You will come to know what is considered as sin and the life after our death. This book is also priced at Rs 10 only. Buy as many books as possible and distribute to others also so that they will think a hundred times before committing any sin.

Let me quote a few from the Bible as samples which are despised by the Lord and will invite His wrath and capital punishment. **Sexual impurity and immorality, adultery, shameful lusts, indecent acts, perversions, homosexuals, male prostitution, lesbianism, obscenity, wickedness, evil greed, depravity, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanders, insolence, arrogance, boastfulness, disobedience to parents, contempt, idolatry and worshiping man, birds, animals and reptiles as gods, passing judgement on others, stealing, giving false testimony, devouring widows' houses, making a show of lengthy prayers, self seeking, rejecting the truth, foolish talk, coarse joking, not doing the good one ought to do to others, bragging, getting drunk, swindling, loving worldly things in preference to God, speaking against your brother and judging him**. Like this there are many which are considered as sins in the eyes of the Lord.

Everything that does not come from faith is sin *(Rom. 14:23);*
Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and does not do it,

commits sin (James 4:17); ***The schemes of folly are sin*** (Pro. 24:9); ***All wrong doing is sin*** (1 John 5:17); ***Every one who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness*** (1John 3:4).

We do all these sins as **Christians** after accepting Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We do all these things as born Christians and as born again Christians. We do everything after going to Church. We do all sorts of atrocities and iniquities after hearing the Word of God every week and after reading the Bible every day. We do all sorts of sins even after we are anointed by the Holy Spirit and talking in tongues. Do we do or not?

We as **Hindus** do commit all these sins after going to various temples, after doing all the pujas, chanting of all the slogas and mantras and after having a holy dip in Ganga and Yamuna rivers. We think rubbish and do all sorts of filthy things and our hearts are filled with stinking lust and vulgar thoughts, feelings of jeolousy and revenge.

We as **Muslims** dare to do all these things knowingly even after reading the Holy Quran, after doing namas in the mosque and even after making a holy pilgrimage to Mecca. This I am not writing with an intention of rediculing my muslim-friends. I have highest regards for their strong faith, dedication and sincerity.

But, we all as human beings, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, either educated or illiterate, rich or poor, without any qualms of conscience, are committing all of these sins. Nobody can claim that he is pure or holy. Can any one say that he has not done any of these sins? None on earth can say that. If any one says that he has not done any sin in his life, he is cheating himself. He is a fraud. He is telling a lie. ***"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us"*** **(1John 1:8)**. When we examine ourselves in God's perspective of sin, we commit sin every day, every minute and have been committing throughout our lives knowingly and unknowingly.

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit forbidden by God, they committed the first sin of disobedience. We, their offspring inherited

automatically and genetically (Acts 17:28). Disobeying the Lord is a sin. As soon as Adam disobeyed the Lord and ate the forbidden fruit, what did he answer the Lord when he was questioned? Without taking the blame himself, he immediately shifted it to Eve saying that he did not eat it on his own but it was given to him by her.

TWO ARE WATCHING WHATEVER WE DO

"Nothing could happen without the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He is omniscient" – John 16:30 (NIV)

Knowingly or unknowingly, sometimes after suppressing and burying our own conscience, we do commit every day many of the above sins. Even I had felt irritated and annoyed when some preachers called upon the public "O Sinners, come to the Lord Jesus Christ. He calls you for salvation". Many a time I had thought in the past that no one on this earth had seen or was aware of the wrong thing I had done and had felt satisfied and contented. But there is nothing in us or in this world that is not known to the Lord. He is fully aware of everything, every thought, even the inner most feelings in our heart. We may be able to cheat others, even ourselves, but not God. He knows the thoughts even before we think them. He is omnipresent. His eyes are everywhere. Heb. 4:13 says, ***'There is no creature hidden from His sight but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.'***

In fact two are constantly watching us and all our deeds. One is God, the other one is the devil. When we do good things, the Lord feels happy. But when we commit a sin, the devil is happy and the Lord is unhappy. Satan is the inducer and the cause for doing all the above evil things mentioned and innumerable other sins that are not mentioned here. He is waiting near us like our shadows ready to jump on us. He will induce and entice us to do all these evil and sinful acts. He will drag, bind us in his grip and keeps us in bondage permanently without any escape. He will ensure to widen the gap in our divine relationship with God and finally push us into Hell and the burning fire there saying that death is the reward for all our sins.

Satan is the cause for all our present problems, sickness, loss of peace, unhappiness, worries and sufferings. Apostle Peter warns us in I Peter 5:8 that ***he is roaming like a roaring lion looking eagerly for someone to devour. The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy*** *(John 10:10)* Yes, Satan is roaming around to destroy our peace, health, wealth, family and kill and steal all our happiness. ***He is the lord of this earth and age*** *(2 Cor. 4:4)*. He has blinded all our faith, convinced and cheated us that he is the real god in different forms and names in this world. The Bible warns us in Matthew 24:24 that ***false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect!***

He is very cunning, wicked, clever and powerful also. But he is a cheat and a thief. ***He was a murderer from the beginning. He is a liar and the father of lies*** *(John 8:44)*. He knows the Word of God also. In fact he knows more than any of us. He can trick us with the same Word of God. He has cleverly tricked, cheated and divided our Christian brothers also into so many denominations. He has also succeeded in further dividing the believers with wrong doctrines like "Body of Christ", "Jehovah's witnesses", "Only Jesus" and so many others with the same Word of God. See how cunning he is. ***We are not unaware of his schemes (2 Cor. 2:11).***

Some people tell me that it is not that your Jesus Christ alone is doing the miracles. Our god has done and is doing so many miracles and wonders and answers our prayers. They say, "I went to that temple or to that shrine and a miracle or wonder has happened in my life and I was cured of my sickness, got a job, found a suitable match for my son" etc. Many such wonders may have happened in our lives also after worshipping the idols in the temples. They have told me many such testimonies of having received many miracles after going to that temple or after doing a special puja to a particular god. No wonder in that. They are not telling a lie. They are telling the truth about what has happened in their life.

I too had witnessed such miracles in my life, professional career and family life after going to those temples before coming to Christ. All these

things are the cunning and tricks of Satan done just to keep us under his thumb in his grip and under the illusion that he is the real god and capable of doing miracles. The devil does miracles and wonders.

The Word of God warns us in 2 Cor. 11:14 that ***no wonder for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. Also the Scripture tells us clearly in Rev. 16:14 that they are spirits of demons performing signs.*** *Further 2 Cor. 4:4 says* **that Satan has blinded the eyes of the atheist. *But the devil knows very well that there is a God*** *(Sam. 2:29).* It is like feeding and fattening the goat for the slaughter house and like a captor giving protection and food to the captives before killing them, whom he had abducted for his selfish purpose. Let us not be carried away and be fooled by these tricks of Satan.

SATAN WILL FLEE WHEN WE PRAY WITH FAITH

"Resist him standing firm in faith" – 1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

Satan is just waiting to see when we will slip and fall. He is just waiting for a chance when we will feel jealous or angry or irritated or feel low in our day to day life or when we will be weak in our prayer life or spiritually poor. He will then silently even without our consciousness, creep into our life and add fuel to the fire and engulf us completely in that and make us commit sin. With our flesh and with our own efforts, we cannot win him.

To avoid further indulgence in any sins or to detest even the thought of committing a sin, we need to have a strong faith in Jesus and pray ceaselessly. We have to be in His presence and under the grace of the Lord God. Only with constant, continuous prayer and rock-like faith, we can get the strength to fight against all the temptations that Satan may bring. ***Only the Lord Jesus can help us to be extricated from sins*** *(Heb. 2:18).*

Satan is not afraid of anything in this world except the name of our King of Kings, His blood and our prayers. *Eph. 6:11 says,* ***"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes".*** Further we have a comforting word from the Lord in Rev.12:11, ***"They overcame him (Satan) by the blood***

of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Only through the power of our prayers, faith and being covered by the blood of Jesus, can we overpower Satan. This I have experienced not only in my life but seen also in the lives of many believers and servants of God. More than a mother could take care of her child, Jesus Christ takes care of all our needs, protects us from all the dangers, holds us when we stumble and comforts us.

Jesus is with us when we are sick, takes away our pain and sickness and holds us to His bosom like a father. He is ready to give us all the wealth and treasures of this world and every blessing of this heaven. But when we relax and become weak in our faith and prayers and become worldly, we automatically spread a red carpet to Satan to enter into our life. Once he enters and dwells in us, he becomes the master and we start listening to him. He becomes the stumbling block in our getting the grace and blessings of our beloved Jesus Christ. We can remove the stumbling block only by strengthening our intimate relationship with the lord through prayers and faith and then we can again become heir to the Lord's unceasing limitless blessings.

CAN ANYONE DO WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US?

"He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted" – Job 5:9 (NIV)

As iron is heated, hammered, brought to a shape and then moulded into a useful object or tool, our pastor moulded and shaped us with the Word of God. Sometimes with love, many a time with warnings, instilling fear to keep away from sin, and helped us to learn more about Jesus, imbibe His qualities and purify ourselves. As our spiritual father, guiding us to our heavenly Father, feeling the necessity to strengthen our faith and to grow in our spiritual life, he sent to our house every day, a spiritually grown believer from the church for prayer. They used to narrate their spiritual experiences and how the Lord spoke to them in a tender voice, answered all their prayers, blessed them with even the smallest requirements and guided them in all their day to day dealings.

Spellbound, we listened to their experiences and understood how great is our Father God, His matchless love and sacrifice for us which no one on this earth can think of. The other day I was watching GOD channel on TV and Pastor Benny Hinn narrated a story to explain the grace of our Father God which nearly brought tears to my eyes. Once there was a very rich person who had all the wealth and treasures of this world. He had only one son. His neighbour had three sons. One day the rich man left his only son in the custody of his neighbour and went to another place on some errand. When he came back, he was shocked to see his son murdered by the neighbour's three sons.

The rich man was terribly upset. If he had wanted, he could have eliminated the neighbour's entire family in no time or he could have taken a revenge for the death of his only son in any way he desired either with an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth or life for life or son for a son. Or if he had wanted, he could have gone to the court seeking justice for his son's murder. He had such resources and wealth for doing anything on earth. But, instead of doing any of these things, he did an unimaginable thing which no body could even think of. Not only did he forgive them, but he also adopted all the sons of the neighbour as his own sons and made them heir to all his wealth and treasures.

Can any one do such a marvellous thing? Can you think of it? But our Father God, our Almighty God did that for us. We crucified His one and only Son. Instead of taking revenge on us, the Father has pardoned all our atrocities and made us His children who could inherit all His blessings. Who could do that? Our gracious Heavenly Father gave the life of His only Son to give us life, the eternal life, because ***He loved us so much*** *(John:16)*. How great is our Lord! Father, we bless You with all our heart and with all we have and we love You and we are ready to die for You! ***THERE IS NO GOD LIKE YOU IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH*** *(2 Chronicles 6:14)!* We are happy, healthy and peaceful because of His abundant love.

Our neighbours sometimes ask us with raised eye brows how we are so happy and cheerful all the time. We tell them that it is because of the love of Jesus Christ. You cannot understand it

unless you taste it for yourself. It is like someone from a distance seeing a man standing alone, looking up excited and waving his raised hand cheerfully. From a distance the other man could not see anything or understand why he was waving his hand. When he came a little nearer, he could see a kite flying some 100 meters high over his head.

But again he could not understand why he was waving his hand to a kite and his face shining with some inexplicable joy. Then he advanced a little closer and then could spot a thread in that person's hand by which he had been controlling the flying kite. When he came still closer, he could understand the reasons for his cheerfulness and joy. So long as he stayed away at a distance, he could not comprehend it.

In the same way if you want to know why so many people convert to Christianity and why all those Christians are always happy, you have to come closer and into Christ and see it for yourself. You can then understand the secret behind their joy and source of their happiness. Jesus Christ takes away all our problems, sickness, and sufferings and gives us peace, health and happiness. Hallelujah!

AN INAUSPICIOUS DAY AND TIME IS LUCKY FOR THE CHILDREN OF JESUS

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age" - Mat 28:20 (NIV)

When we were quite new and infants in Christ, my wife who followed old Hindu customs and traditions, used to look for the suitable day and time to do any good thing or to go anywhere and avoid Ashtami and Navami (inauspicious days) and Raaghu kaal and Yamagandam (inauspicious times). Likewise Margazhi month in Tamil (approximately Dec 15 to Jan 14) is considered to be an unfavourable month in which no marriage or house warming ceremony or inauguration of any new business or venture will take place.

If a cat crosses when we step out or someone sneezes while we go out, she will come back inside the house and sit for a while, take a sip of water to offset the obstacle and then she will go about feeling satisfied that the bad omen has been nullified. I too had

such a belief earlier but after coming to Christ I am free from all those superstitions. I told my wife that there was no inauspicious or bad month, day or time or a bad omen or anything like that in the creation of the Lord. Many marriages arranged after seeing the horoscope and stars matching have failed miserably and ended up in a divorce. Westerners don't see such stupid things.

In one of the Petrol bunks (gas stations) I saw a small display which was a straight hit on the bull. It said "Hello friend, before coming out you had checked if it was Raagu kaal or yamagandam (inauspicious times) but you have failed to see the oncoming lorry in front! How many people are going to give up this foolish habit and traditions even after seeing this small display? After growing in Christ, now my wife no longer has these foolish sentiments. I go a step further and do everything only in those inauspicious months, days and time and the Lord has blessed all my endeavours abundantly. Why should I worry when ***my times are in the Lord's hands?*** *(Ps. 31:15).*

We just pray before doing anything or going out anywhere. The Lord who promised in Deut. 28:6 ***"You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out"*** blesses us and His awesome presence goes before us and removes all the obstacles! The Lord is so kind to promise us ***"My presence will go with you and I will give you rest*** *(Ex. 33:14)."* What else does one need? The Lord's awesome presence and His blessings are always with us! No other god can promise us and protect us like Jesus Christ. Amen!

JESUS CHRIST TRANSFORMS ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM

"Keep the way of the Lord to do righteousness and justice" – Gen. 18:19 (NIV)

Jesus Christ has totally changed my character, temperaments, attitudes and behaviour. Every one who comes to Jesus Christ is influenced by His holiness, a supreme code of conduct and righteousness and is transformed into His likeness. When a person grows in Christ, a total attitudinal change takes place in his life. There is tolerance, patience, peace, love for His creations and forgiveness in his nature. I have come

across many rowdies, terrorists, thieves, pickpockets, criminals, habitual trouble makers who have become docile, peace loving and tolerant citizens, gentle and holy, pastors, evangelists after accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. I can quote innumerable instances of such persons who have turned from evil to good.

With tears and with all reverence, I remember now the Australian missionaries Mr. Graham Stains and his family who worked in Orissa among leprosy patients who were totally boycotted, considered untouchables, sinners and outcasts. Without any aversion, they used to nurse those leprosy patients and wash and clean their ugly looking exposed wounds in their body. They showed and exhibited the pure love of Jesus Christ to the needy people in Orissa without expecting anything from them in return.

A group of fanatic elements irked by the godly services of Mr. Stains and his family went to their place during one of the nights and saw Mr. Stains and his lovely two young children sleeping in the van. The fanatic satanic radicals poured petrol over the van and set fire to it. In no time the fire spread and engulfed the entire van on all sides. Mr. Stains and his two young children tried to escape from the van. But the mad rascals beat them with sticks and pushed them back to the fire. On hearing the death cry and seeing the flames blazing forth from the van, Mrs. Stains came out of the make-shift hut cum hospital and was terror struck to see what was happening to her beloved husband and children.

The young children, not able to bear the heat of the fire, cried, pleaded, half burnt tried again to come out of the van but the merciless, mad, sadist crowd threw them back into the fire. Within minutes everything was over. Mr. Stains who used to silently wipe his tears while tending the deep septic wounds of the lepers was burnt alive like a log and his lovely two children were like burnt out sticks, body completely twisted, skin and flesh totally burnt and peeled off, hanging, hair completely burnt, face contorted and eyes protruding. It was a horrible sight to see the condition of the charred bodies. Even a heart of stone will break into pieces on seeing the horrible condition of those gutted, disfigured human bodies.

All these atrocities and inhuman acts happened right before the eyes of Mrs. Stains who was extremely shocked. She had to watch helplessly all these cruel acts by which her loved ones were subjected to one of the most horrible deaths in the world. She did not even know who they were and why they were doing those things to them. She was terribly shocked and became speechless. Immersed in her deep sorrow, she was not able to believe what had just happened. She wished that it had not happened, it was a bad dream and it was not true. But the three dead, burnt, unrecognizable bodies laid on the lawn of her small hut where they were staying indicated to her that whatever had happened was true.

The most horrifying sight of the fire and their blood-curdling cry while the fire was burning and spreading to every part of the body slowly and their rolling on the ground like a fire ball, kicking, shivering and shaking before all their movements stopped and their twisted body lying there huddled like a roasted duck, will haunt her through the rest of her life. When the police came and enquired her, she only said, "Whatever happened has happened and cannot be undone. I have nothing against those who have done this. I pray to Jesus Christ to forgive them. Leave me and them."

This was telecast on all the TV channels throughout the world and published in all the news papers, magazines and broadcast on all the frequencies of radios through out the world. Even the sadist soul condemned this dastardly inhuman act. Every Christian in the world heard this news and they silently shed tears and prayed for the departed souls and for Mrs. Stains. Every church in the world silently prayed for the family of this missionary. But there was no retaliation, no revenge, no bombs, no burning of trains or buses, no hartals, strikes or bandhs anywhere in the world. They silently bore this intolerable inhuman act, swallowed it and with a deep sigh, they prayed to the Almighty to forgive those who were responsible for this merciless, cowardly, cold blooded murder.

Not only to Stains, hundreds of such incidents have happened to Christian missionaries in Gujarat, Orissa, UP, Bihar and in every

State in India. Many churches have been gutted. Many missionaries have been brutally beaten and killed. Many nuns have been raped and tortured. All these incidents have been published in news papers, telecast and broadcast on the TV and radios. But there has been no retaliation by any Christian, in any place, in any part of the world. They silently bore the sufferings as Jesus Christ bore the sufferings on the cross and pleaded with God as He did, ***"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do** (Luke 23:24)"*.

Christians cry out to the Lord like Stephen when he was stoned to death by the Jews, ***"Lord, do not charge them with this sin** (Acts 7:60)"*. Jesus teaches His believers, ***"Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you** (Mat. 5:44-46)"*. He has further taught His followers in Mat. 5:39, ***"I tell you not to resist an evil person, but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also"***. Like this, Jesus Christ and all His disciples have taught Christians and set themselves as personal examples of what they have taught.

They did not tell all these teachings in a class room or at a public meeting or when they were sitting on a sofa, enjoying a joyous life. But they said these things when they were tortured and before they died at the hands of their butchers. ***The Bible imposes upon Christians to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander along with every form of malice and to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you** (Eph. 4:31)*. Christians follow it religiously in letter and in spirit even when they are personally affected and attacked. The Lord Jesus gives them the strength to endure tribulation for His sake. That is the difference!

A leader, guru, master, mentor, God or any other you follow and worship as a god should set himself as a personal example to his followers and believers to follow. Jesus Christ did that and all His disciples followed it and the believers continue to follow it. None else has done it before or ever. A religion or the mentor should mend and mould his followers and guide them to live a non-violent, peaceful, divine and sinless life. Such teachings, preachings,

followings and imbibing that ideology and doctrine and accepting it as your way of life and religion can alone bring peace love and brotherhood in this world devoid of any violence, hatred and terrorism in the name of caste, creed, religion, language rivers, dams, statues, political party leaders and cinema actors.

WHO IS A TRUE CHRISTIAN?

"Christianity is not related to external changes" – Mat. 23:26 (NIV)

Whenever I speak to someone about the greatness and uniqueness of Christianity, I emphatically tell them that if a family society, country or the whole world were to live in peace and harmony without any dispute, misunderstanding, violence, terrorism or border conflicts or nuclear threats, the only and sure way is to follow the teachings of the Bible and Jesus Christ. The whole world should imbibe the qualities of Jesus Christ A few had pointed out the atrocities, inhuman behaviors, indecent words, wife beatings, alcoholism, drug addiction of a few Christians and asked how these Christians were indulging in such activities against the teachings of the Bible and Jesus Christ.

I had felt as if some one had hit me flat on my face on hearing such indecents and unchristian like behavior by a few nominal Christians. Not only do they spoil the name of Jesus Christ but they also set a bad example to others and tarnish the image of Jesus Christ. Although I get annoyed on hearing such news about a few rotten Christians, I control my feelings and answer their queries patiently saying that all Christians are not Christians. The very word 'Christian' denotes 'Christ-in' oneself. A person who has 'Christ-in-himself' can only be a Christian. Jesus Christ is a Holy God. If He has to dwell in somebody's heart, he also has to be holy. His thinking; speaking and all his actions have to be holy, pure, sinless and Christ - like and filled with love towards every one. Otherwise he cannot be called a Christian.

A person who has Christ in his heart cannot do any wrong or sinful act. If someone does them, he is not the son of Jesus Christ, the Holy Son of God but the son of the demon, Satan. *Apostle John*

says in 1 John 3:8-10, ***"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. That's how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are."*** Human flesh is vulnerable and weak. After committing a sin or a wrong thing, if he realizes his sin, repents of it and asks for forgiveness from God sincerely and makes a vow and determines not to do it again, he is forgiven.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy *(Pro 28:13)"*. After committing any sin, if they don't realize it or feel for it, they are not at all Christians. They are Christians only in name. There are Christians who do things that are disliked and despised by Christ. They are all weeds in Christianity. The Word of God (Luke 3:17) warns them sternly about what would happen to all such people. ***"His (God's) winnowing fork is in His hand to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire".*** Yes, those nominal Christians' or 'Sunday Christians' will be burnt in hell fire.

A person cannot become a Christian just because he is born into a Christian family or to a Christian parent or he is being called by a Christian name such as Antony, George or Peter. Christian life is not a bed of roses as many people think. It dictates strict adherence to discipline, purity, holiness, righteousness. The path is very narrow, uneven and full of torment and turmoil. Jesus Christ has said, ***"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life (Heaven) and there are few who find it (Mat. 7:13-14)".*** He has said further, ***"If a person wants to follow me, let him despise himself, pick up his cross and follow me".***

Christian life is a holy Pilgrimage. It shows the divine path for a permanent, eternal life and it is the only way to the Heaven. It is a holy fire and sacrifice in which one has to check oneself every moment, day in and day out and purify and sanctify himself. Christianity relentlessly pinpoints and dictates the only way to live

and to follow them strictly and religiously. The Lord has clearly said in Deut. 30:15, ***"I have set before you today life and good, death and destruction". "Therefore choose life so that you and your children may live** (Deut. 30:19)"*. It is for us to choose now. If we choose the good, the eternal life is ours to inherit. If we choose the evil, eternal hell will be our lot.

A true Christian should reflect the holy characteristics of God. He should be pure in heart and filled with love for others. We should be patient, humble, ready to forgive others and should act in such a way that no one is hurt or made unhappy. Besides he should obey all the Commandments of God. Above all, he should worship only the triune God - Almighty Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and love the Lord with all his heart, mind and soul. He should never make nor worship any graven image in any form which would usurp the place of the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent God. **If idols are made for the mother of Lord Jesus or for any of the disciples, it is against the Word of God. If any one is worshipping any of these idols, it is only a sin.**

WE SHOULD BE WITNESSES TO JESUS CHRIST

"You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" – Acts 1:88

By reflecting the qualities and virtues of Jesus Christ, we should be witnesses to Him. Our neighbours should testify about us saying, "They are Christians who will never look at or mind others' business. They will not speak any unnecessary word and never speak even one word ill about others or complain about others. We have always seen them with a cheerful disposition. They move elegantly with good manners, show respect and love for others". Our colleagues, supervisors and managers in our office should testify about us thus:"He is a Christian. He is trustworthy, honest, sincere and hard working. Give him any job, we don't have to enquire about it the second time. It will be done by him".

Every Christian should earn such a testimony from every one in the office, home, neighborhood and in all his contacts and

relationships with others and be a witness to Jesus Christ reflecting His holiness, love, gentleness and righteousness at all times, even in the face of adverse circumstances and trials. ***"By this all will come to know that you are my disciples (Jn 13:35)".*** The sweet fragrance of Jesus Christ's purity and holiness should be reflected in all our dealings. 2 Cor. 2:15 says, ***"We are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing". Christianity is not related to external changes*** *(Mat. 23:26)*. It calls for an inner change, a total change in our attitude, our thinking, our heart, our outlook on life, sins etc.

By seeing our attitudes, habits, righteousness, others should be encouraged to wish, long for and decide to lead such a holy and loveable life. Others should be able to understand that this discipline, holiness in our life is the culmination and result of following Jesus Christ and imbibing His teachings in the Bible. We should never differentiate between the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, high caste or low caste, or between religions but treat every body equally without any disparity, show our love to them and help them because THESE RELIGIONS, CASTE, CREED ARE NOT CREATED BY GOD BUT ARE MADE ONLY BY MEN. ***In Christ there is neither Greek nor Jew, free nor slave, other castes nor other country*** *(Col. 3:11)*.

A real, true Christian should be free from all worldly desires, ambitions, lust, jealousy, greed, anger, revenging attitudes, talking ill of others and lead a humble, peaceful and simple contented life in Christ. Only they are true Christians. When we lead such a life, the Lord's abundant blessings, peace, happiness and grace will always be with us. There will be problems, sufferings, sickness and difficult times in Christian life but that is in accordance with the Words of Jesus Christ.

He has said in John 16:33, ***"In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome this world".*** But in all that, the Lord's comforting hands will embrace us and His divine, everlasting grace and peace will envelop us. His mighty power that had overcome this world will protect us and carry us forward. Experience it and see it for yourself.

DO YOU WISH TO EXPERIENCE DIVINE PEACE IN YOUR LIFE?

"He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" – Eph 3:20 (NIV)

O Brothers and Sisters who are reading this book! If there is no peace, happiness in your life, if you are not able to find a solution to all your problems, difficulties, sickness, debts even after going to various temples, worshipping many gods, or after having holy dips in the holy rivers and temple tanks or after chanting various mantras and slogas or after performing many holy fires, sacrifices, abhishekams, archanas to the deities, please do not worry. Come to Jesus Christ. I am not asking you to convert to Christianity. I tell you only to turn away from sin, sinful thoughts, deeds and turn to Jesus Christ. Confess all your sins to Jesus Christ and tell Him that He died on the cross of Calvary for our sins and beg with tears for the remission of your sins and to accept you as His son and daughter. Let that prayer be true, sincere and from the bottom of your heart. Study the Word of God, especially the New Testament and set your life on the lines of the Bible and the commandments of Jesus Christ. Matthew Chapter 4:4 says, ***"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God".*** Go to a nearby spiritual anointed church and see for yourself with an open mind what is happening there You are educated, you know what is what.

You know very well what is right and what is wrong Nobody can cheat you or fool you with a piece of chocolate. See for yourself the worship, the order of service, the discipline and the punctuality of the believers. See the total dedication of the congregation during worship, feel the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Watch how the entire congregation forget themselves and enjoy worshipping the Almighty God. Listen to testimonies given by the believers about the miracles and wonders the Lord has done in their life You will find the whole congregation praying in one accord for the sick people and for them whose date of birth or marriage anniversary fell during that week

You will be surprised to see the pastor and those believers welcoming the new comers to the church by clapping their hands and the whole congregation praying for them. Listen to the deep message from the Word of God by the Pastor and see for yourself whether all these things are useful or not. Check for yourself. If you think with an open, unbiased mind, you will find that all these things are definitely useful, beneficial, educating, spiritually uplifting, making you holy, creating the fear of God, moulding your life and helping you to lead a just, righteous and holy life devoid of sins! Apostle Paul says in 1 Thess. 1:16, ***"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus".***

JESUS CHRIST GIVES YOU A NEW LIFE

"Whoever finds me finds life" – Pro. 8:35 (NIV)

If you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, God, Redeemer, father, friend, philosopher and guide, you will find that the divine peace, joy that you have not enjoyed in your entire life so far will surely fill and overflow in your heart. I am telling you all these things only after experiencing them personally in my life. I also did not believe them initially when it was told to me in the beginning. I had argued, counter argued and opposed them. Because I had opposed Christianity and I had an aversion to it. Just imagine how much I might have studied, analyzed before accepting Jesus Christ in my life.

In the same way, you also test and analyze it. You will find how true what I have mentioned here is. Jesus Christ is capable of giving us a new life after removing all the imprints of our past sins, making us free from the clutches of all the bad, sinful habits which have enslaved us so far. The Psalmist says in 16:11, ***"You have made known to me the path of life"***. Jesus Christ did not come to the earth from heaven to punish sinners or to discipline them or to destroy them. See what Jesus Christ has said in Mat. 9:12, ***"I did not come to call the righteous; but sinners to repentance"***. *Apostle Paul testifies in 1 Tim. 1:15* ***that Jesus Christ came to save the sinners of the world***.

Yes, He came with a father's love, longings and concern to forgive all our sins. He came to correct us, to give us a new life, a holy life completely free from the past sinful life. Jesus Christ took the incarnation of a human being, bore patiently all the sufferings only for the sake of mankind. He gave Himself as a sacrifice, submitted Himself silently to all the torture and to an ignoble death on the cross only to give us the invaluable salvation and remission from all our sins free of cost. To those who believe in the salvation and remission of sins and beg for it, the comforting Jesus Christ is faithful enough to give it to every one without any reservation.

The Word of God says, ***'If you believe, you will see the glory of God* (John 11:40)'**. There is no limit to the miracles and wonders He can do to the people who seek Him and His grace. The psalmist says in 34:10, ***"Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing".*** This I am able to witness in all the believers who come to church with full faith and I thank the Lord for it. I could only feel pain, pity and anguish for those who run here, there and every where seeking peace, happiness, salvation, blessings and deliverance with no result, not knowing or ignoring the living, loving and caring God Jesus Christ. He is so near to them. He can comfort, love us more than a mother could love her child. He can do anything for us beyond our thinking or understanding.

He can take us to any height in our life by holding our hands like a father. O those who are frustrated in life, searching everywhere for peace and salvation, come to this loving God who calls upon you with His both arms stretched out. Whatever worst sins you might have committed in your life, Jesus Christ is the only God who can forgive all of them like a mother. Jesus Christ is not for Christians alone. He is for everyone who was born, for every one living now and for every one yet to be born irrespective of their religion, caste, creed, nationality or language. The Lord God shed even His last drop of blood on the cross of Calvary and died only for you. He was resurrected on the third day and is living even today only for you. He is calling you with arms stretched out to come to Him for salvation.

We can get a new life in this world as well as eternal life in heaven when we surrender ourselves to this lovely, wonderful, awesome, all powerful, the only true and living God. Leave aside all your hesitations, fears, thinking what others, the society, relatives, friends, or anybody else may think or talk. Come to this God who can give you anything and everything and give peace, happiness, joy, deliverance, healing, wonders, miracles in your life that cannot be given by anyone else in this world. Isaiah 26:3 spells out, ***"God will keep you in perfect peace if your mind is stayed on God and trust in Jesus."*** COME, COME TODAY, AND COME AT ONCE TO JESUS CHRIST. TAKE A BOLD STEP RIGHT NOW.

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth" (Ps. 145:18). Your life will change. Worries will be over. Tears will be wiped out. Your sorrow will turn to joy. Your sickness will be gone for ever. Your problems will be solved. Your heart, life and home will be filled to the brim and overflow with divine everlasting peace, contentment and joy. King David says in Ps. 16:11 ***"You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."*** That is definite. May the Prince of Peace, the comforting and loving Almighty God bless you and your family, with His abundant grace, love, kindness, mercy and joy. I pray to the Father through the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

May the Lord's grace be upon all of you!



Pastor Jacob George, Sam Varghese, Chitra Prentice and George Joy who strengthened me in chirst











ABOUT THE AUTHOR

No one who sees Bro. Thayappan will believe that he is 74 years old because he is very active and full of energy. He is also intelligent and powerful speaker. He served in the Indian Air Force for 26 years in various parts of the country, was Administrative officer in a non-governmental organisation for women's develop ment and eventually, voluntarily retired as Personnel Manager of the Textile division in Fenbner (India) Ltd. A good singer and a versatile actor on the state and T.V., he was the mentor and introducer of the popular cine actor Delhi Ganesh to stage-acting. A highly talented person with a wide and varied experience in administra tion, organisation, H.R.D. and marketing, he was a staunch Hindu and had a strong aversion to Christia nity. The Lord Jesus Christ touched him and his family through amazing and unimaginable miracles. He is now and anointed preacher. He is used mightily by the Lord in the extension of His Kingdom. By his soul-stirring testimony, messages and books many people are being drawn to the Lord. Even religious fanatics and atheist give their heart to the Lord after listening to his testimony and reading his books. No wonder that the Lord uses him or more than 25 days in a month in many churches. Surprisingly, all his books and VCDs are priced only at Rs.10/- each and they are in great demand. The living Lord has chosen him and his family especially for His glory. Let us pray for his good soldier of Jesus Christ, his family and his 'Good Testimony Ministries'.